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Book of Berkshire.

BY ITS

Historical and Scientific Society.

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BOOK OF BERKSHIRE.

PAPERS

BY ITS

Historical and Scientific Society.

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY.

PITTSFIELD, MASS.

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1890.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

The members and patrons of the Berkshire Historical and Scientific Society will receive herewith the third number of its principal papers. With the fourth number, whose issue may be expected in about a year, the first volume will be completed; and the separate numbers are and will be so printed and paged, as to be conveniently bound together into volumes, which will bear the general title, Book of Berkshire.

It is thought, that the papers now presented to the public, all of which have been read at the Quarterly meetings of the Society, of which the last held was the Fiftieth, will not fall below in point of interest and importance those heretofore published. Dr. Smith's paper on "Medicine in Berkshire," traverses hitherto unbroken ground; and he kindly promises a future paper continuing the record of the physicians of the County from the year 1800 to a much more recent date.

Lanesborough has the distinction of making the Episcopal Church more prominent in the early time than any other town in the County; and in this point of view, the elaborate and excellent paper, by a clergyman of that Church, printed in the present number, will find a wide and pleasant recognition.

Mr. Canning has been from the first one of the most assiduous and laborious members of our Society. The ripened fruit of long research into the fascinating story of Indian Missions in Stockbridge will be welcomed (and more) by the readers of the present number.

A portion of our County but little known, because hitherto but little investigated, has been illumined by Mr. Beebe in his careful paper, which the Society is now glad to present to the public.

A. L. P.

WILLIAMS COLLEGE, MARCH 4, 1890.

MEDICINE IN BERKSHIRE.

BY DR. A. M. SMITH, WILLIAMSTOWN.

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MEDICINE IN BERKSHIRE.

At the present time many of the physicians who first came to Berkshire, are known only by name. The record of their birth and death; of their struggles during the early days of the county; of their heroism; of their masterful skill; of that profound love for them and confidence in them begotten by their unselfish devotion to their profession; of these things there is for many no history.

The settlement of Southern Berkshire was from the valley of the Connecticut. "The first road into Berkshire county"—says Mr. Keith,—“is that from Westfield to Sheffield,” and the four new townships opened on this road were called No. 1, 2, 3, 4. No. 1, Monterey and Tyringham; No. 2, New Marlboro; No. 3, Sandisfield; No. 4, Becket. “It appears,” says the same writer, “that this road was only a path at the time of the grant of townships Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 in 1735.” Still, we have a record of a physician in Sheffield as early as 1743.

Mr. Charles J. Taylor, in a letter to the writer, says, “The first physician in the north Parish of Sheffield, now Great Barrington, of whom I find mention was Deodet Woodbridge of Hartford, Doctor of Physic, as described in a deed of March, 1773. He lived here for a time in that year, but how long I do not know, nor have I any further information about him.”

“Doctor *Samuel Breck*, perhaps from Palmer, Mass., purchased a house and land here in 1751, and is supposed to have settled here in that year. Was Parish Assessor in 1752. Married, about Oct., 1762, Mary Strong of Stockbridge. Had a son, John Aaron Breck, baptized Dec. 13, 1763. Doctor Breck died in 1764.” (Correspondence of Mr. Taylor.)

Doctor *William Bull* was a native of Westfield, and reputed to be an eminent physician. In 1751 he, with forty-four other persons, petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts “for

the confirmation of their lands by the occupants," etc. He must then as early as 1751 have been settled in Sheffield. This petition indicates a man of great influence with his neighbors; of great concern that they have to pay such heavy rents to Robert Livingstone, Jr. Esq., "And never like to have the Gospel among them so long as they are Tenants to him," etc., and of that godliness which likes to occupy a good deal of land. We have no further history of him.

"Doctor *Joseph Lee*, from whence unknown," was in Sheffield, now Barrington, in 1761. Dr. Collins of Great Barrington, says, "I am now (1879) residing on premises which have been occupied by physicians for more than a century. Not the same buildings—my house was built of stone in 1851, the year I came here, and stands on a corner in the southern part of the village and has just one acre about it. The first owner was Dr. Joseph Lee, who married, Jan. 1762, Eunice Woodbridge, daughter of Timothy Woodbridge, Esq., of Stockbridge, and occupied these premises in 1762, and died March 6, 1764, aged 27 years. Dr. William Whiting occupied the same place 1765 and died 1772. Dr. Samuel Barstow, father-in-law of the late Increase Sumner, Esq., occupied the premises in 1808, died in 1813. So you see I am the fourth medical man on the premises. The old house was moved off about thirty years ago."

"Doctor *Samuel Lee*, said to have been from Lyme, Conn., was here in 1765, bought a house and land here Jan., 1765, the same which, soon after, he sold to the County for a jail house, and for the accommodations of a jail. He was licensed as an Innkeeper April, 1765, kept the jail house and was also apparently keeper of the jail. He removed from town about 1768, to Salisbury, Conn." (Correspondence.)

"Doctor *William Whiting* was a son of Lieut. Col. William Whiting of Bozrah, Conn., born April 8, 1730. He studied medicine with Dr. John Buckely of Colchester, Conn., became a physician and resided for a time in Hartford. By the death of Dr. Joseph Lee and Dr. Samuel Breck, both of which occurred in 1764, a vacancy was made, and it is probable that to fill the vacancy was the object of Dr. Whitney's removal to

Barrington. His first appearance there was in March, 1765. He located in the house previously built and occupied by Dr. Joseph Lee. He united tavern keeping with his professional business. He remained on that place until 1773, when he built in the center of the village a house still standing, though removed from its former site. He soon became prominent in town affairs, was often moderator of the town meetings, held the office of selectman repeatedly, and in 1776 and '78 was a member of the Committee of Safety. At the breaking out of the war, he espoused the cause of the colonies—was active and patriotic. He was a member of the Provincial Congress of the province '74-5 and 6, where he served on important committees. Throughout the war he seems to have exerted a wholesome influence in town, and his record in that period is very commendable. He was a Justice of the Peace during the Revolution, and his commission issued under the reign of George the Third, was one of those altered by the State Council, July 8, 1776, to correspond with the changed status of political affairs. From 1781 to '87 he was one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas for Berkshire, and as such, was compelled with other of the Judges, by the mob of Shay's men, in 1786, to sign a paper agreeing to hold no more courts until the State Constitution should be reformed or revised. His course in the Shay's troubles was less commendable and patriotic than in the Revolution. It was such as brought upon him the dislike and displeasure of the friends of law and order. And in the result of the conflicts of that time, he was among the number fined and sentenced to imprisonment and to sign bonds to keep the peace. His offence seems to have consisted in "seditious words and practices." He left a reputation of a skillful physician and surgeon and appears to have had an extensive practice. He died 1792, Dec. 8th, aged 62 years." (C. J. Taylor, correspondence.)

"Doctor *John Budd*, said to have been from New Bedford, and also reputed to have been a lieutenant in the service at the capture of Burgoyne, probably resided in Barrington as early as May, 1780. He was a driving, active fellow—a "high flyer,"—and attained a large practice. He died in 1804 at the age of 54." (Taylor.)

“Doctor *Isaac Baldwin*,—a genial man with a wooden leg,—came here (Barrington) from Waterbury, Conn., in 1804, in his 59th year.” (Taylor.)

“Doctor *Benjamin Rogers*, from the vicinity of Lebanon, Conn., came here (Barrington) in or about 1800, engaged in practice probably as early as 1812. He was a fine, gentlemanly man, of prepossessing appearance, and took some interest in political affairs. He removed to Hartford where he died about 1836.” (Taylor.)

“Doctor *Samuel Barstow*, son of Seth Barstow, of Sharon, Conn., came here (Barrington) about 1808, and engaged in practice with his brother, *Gamaliel H. Barstow*. Samuel was a democratic politician, and was a fine supporter of the right of his country, a member of the State Senate in 1812. He died in Barrington at the age of 36, in 1813, June 26th, of an affliction of liver and stomach; bore his long sickness with calm resignation, and died in hope, greatly lamented. Gamaliel removed to Broome county, N. Y.; was a member of the New York State Senate, State Treasurer of New York, and a member of Congress.” (Taylor.)

Doctor *Thomas Bolton*, Doctor *Thomas Drake*, Doctor *Alvin Wheeler* were also in Barrington sixty years ago, respecting whom little is known.

Doctor *Nathaniel Downing* was one of the earliest physicians of Sheffield, but there is no further knowledge of him.

Of Doctor *Samuel Barnard*, a native of Deerfield, and a graduate of Yale College in 1759, Dr. Peck says:—“I only know by tradition that he practiced here (Sheffield), and was the town clerk for many years, and I infer, therefore, that he was quite respectable as a physician and as a member of society.” Dr. Barnard was one of the five of the committee appointed at a congress of deputies of the several towns within the county, convened at Stockbridge, on Wednesday July 6, 1774, to take into consideration and report the draught of an agreement to be recommended to the towns in this county for the non-consumption of British manufactures, and from this circumstance we may conclude that Dr. Barnard not only stood high in the confidence of his townsmen, but also that among his colleagues

chosen as deputies from the towns, he was reckoned upon as a man of firmness and integrity."

Dr. Oliver Peck, writing of the Sheffield physicians, says: "Dr. *Sylvester Barnard* was a nephew of Dr. Samuel, and practiced here at one time extensively. He was a native of Northampton. He died in 1817, at the age of 59."

"Doctor *Asa Hillyer* was a native of Granby, Conn."

"Doctor *William Buel*, a native of Litchfield, Conn.," says Dr. Peck: "I well knew. He practiced here (Sheffield) extensively for about twenty years, and removed to Litchfield in 1815. I had a high opinion of Dr. Buel. He was well informed in his profession, and his moral and christian character stood with me and the public at a very high point; he was the grandfather of Gen. William B. Franklin, U. S. army. Dr. Buel died in Litchfield about twenty years ago (1859.)"

"Doctor *Asahel Bennett*, born and educated in Sheffield, had but little practice, and removed to Binghamton, N. Y." (Peck.)

"Doctor John E. Laffargue, a native of Nantes, Lower Loire, France, says Dr. Peck, I well knew. I have been engaged with him many times in practice; he was well informed in his profession; a thorough Frenchman; a gentleman in his manners, with some of his native peculiarities, with an unblemished moral character. His practice was limited, and he moved to San Domingo where he lost his property, and nearly his life in the negro insurrection in 1791. He died here (Sheffield) many years since, aged about 70 (1879.)"

"Doctor *Nathaniel Preston* was a very respectable man in his moral character; of good mental abilities, but deficient in education; never practiced to any extent and died here (Sheffield) in 1825."

"Doctor *F. R. Kellogg* was a native of Sheffield, and practiced here and in Egremont during his life, with the exception of about ten years, which he spent in mercantile pursuits in Erie, Pa., in which he was unfortunate. He died in Sheffield 1877, nearly 80 years of age."

"Doctor *Ithamer H. Smith*, a native of Sheffield, did not reside many years in town. He died in Canaan, Conn., age about 80."

A kinsman of Doctor *John Delamater*, (Dr. Peck, Sheffield,) thus writes of him: "He was a native of Florida, N. Y., born about 1789; studied with his uncle, Dr. Russell Dow, of Chatham, N. Y., and attended lectures in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York; did not take a degree, such an article as a diploma of M. D. was not thought of in those days (1806-8); settled at first at Mendon, N. Y. He was always rather moveable, and verified the old adage, 'A rolling stone gathers no moss;' was in Albany for a time, and came here in 1815, and remained here 'till '25, then he removed to Pittsfield, and was a professor in Medical Institute, Fairfield, N. Y.; Medical School, Pittsfield; Brunswick, Me.; Cleveland, Ohio, and where else I do not recollect. When approaching 80 years of age he proposed to go to some small place where living was less expensive, but his medical brethren made provision for him and raised about \$1200. Died in East Cleveland about 80 years ago. He was not learned outside his profession, but in medical matters was indeed *learned*; he had an acute and discriminating mind in his profession, very enthusiastic, of great facility in the expression of his ideas. His christian character was above reproach; his charity unbounded, which was the chief cause of his poverty."

The notice of physicians practicing in Otis which follows, is from Mr. George A. Shepard.

"Doctor *Eliphalet Colt*, one of the first practicing physicians, came from Harwinton, Conn., in 1795. He settled in that part of Otis then known as London."

"Doctor *Edmund Bancroft* was among the early settlers and practiced successfully for many years."

"Doctor *White G. Spencer* and Doctor *Adonijah White* practiced for a time, but how long am unable to learn."

"Doctor *Eber West* was a leading physician for a number of years and was very skilful."

"Doctor *Watson Sumner*, brother of Increase Sumner, practiced about 1820, very successfully."

"Doctor *William Baird* practiced many years; stood quite high in his profession; was noted for his literary abilities, and lectured occasionally on scientific subjects."

“Doctor *Charles H. Little* was a practicing physician early in the settlement of the town. He was from Middlefield, Mass.”

“Doctor *Wareham L. Fitch* was in practice in Otis some fifty years since (1830.)”

Mr. Shepard in writing of Sandisfield physicians, says, “In respect to many of the physicians I could obtain no date as to time of settlement, leaving, birth, death, or time remaining in practice in the respective towns. Our records furnish no clue. The older ones were not born in this town.”

“Doctor *Jabez Holden* was the first physician settled in this town of whom we have any account. He was one of the original proprietors; a man prominent in town affairs, as appears by the records, but no further information can be obtained as to his medical career.”

“Doctor *Jeremiah Morrison* was one of the earliest practicing physicians, and came here soon after the settlement of the town commenced, but no knowledge is obtained as to the length of time he practiced or when he died.”

“Doctor — *Hamilton* came from Connecticut and practiced a short time.” No further history.

“Doctor *John Hawley* settled in the north part of the town on what is known as Beach Plain. I think he also resided in the district of Southfield for a time, for I find his name on their records. He was among the first settlers.”

“Doctor *Amos Smith* was settled in the district of Southfield, was one of the leading men, and must have been one of the early settlers as his first child was born in 1773. He had a family of fourteen children! five girls and nine boys!! He must have had considerable practice to support them all, but, he had quite a large farm.”

“Doctor *Reuben Buckman* was in practice in this town at the same time that Dr. Smith was practicing in Southfield. His first child was born in 1778. He was eccentric, not popular, practice limited.”

“Doctor *Robert King* was the son and fifth child of Dr. Robert King of Blandford, Mass., who was born in Cork, Ireland, 1744. He was lieutenant in a squadron of cavalry in the 1st

Brigade, 9th Division of Massachusetts Volunteers in 1808; made captain in 1812. He stood high as a physician and surgeon, and had an extensive ride. He removed to Ohio where he died June 29, 1851."

"Doctor *Erastus Beach* was born in Goshen, Conn. He commenced teaching school when sixteen years old. After twenty-one, he settled and practiced medicine and became the leading physician in Sandisfield."

"He was a man of good judgment, a skillful practitioner, a man prominent in town affairs, He was clear-headed and a man of nerve. During his early practice, returning home at midnight, he passed the central burying-ground. While passing he thought he saw something in the figure of a person—but ghostly white—moving about. He stopped his horse to make sure it was no deception, and being assured there was none, he resolved to solve the mystery. Hitching his horse he proceeded to investigate. As he approached, he saw it move, but intent on solving the mystery, he faltered not. Was it a spectre or some tangible being? He found the widow of Rev. Eliazer Storr's, who had deceased a short time previously, wandering in her night dress, in a somnambulistic condition, and hovering over the grave of her deceased husband."

"Doctor *Ebenezer Balch*, a contemporary of Dr. Beach, was from Plattsburg, N. Y. He studied with the Dr. Brewster of Becket.

"He was exceedingly plain and blunt in speech, making use of many quaint and ludicrous expressions. He indulged at times somewhat freely in alcoholic beverages, but was careful and guarded when attending those seriously sick, and was a very cautious practitioner. He excelled in compounding medicines. He died Feb. 19, 1851, aged 68." (Geo. A. Shepard.)

Of Doctor John Hulbut, or Hurlbut as he spelled it, of Alford, Mr. E. C. Ticknor says, "We know next to nothing. We gather—that in 1773, soon after the incorporation of this town, at the first meeting in March he was elected Town Clerk and also one of the Selectmen; filled at times various town offices, was representative to the General Court and received the appointment of Justice of the Peace, which was revoked because

he was a Shay's man. It is understood that he received a classic education at Yale. He married a Miss Hamlin, the mother of a numerous family of children, among whom was the late Hon. John W. Hulbut of Pittsfield, who represented this district in Congress one term."

He was the only physician in town for a long period. He was one of the first members of the District Society. He died June, 1815, at the age of 85 years."

"Doctor *Forward Barnum*, born in Danbury, Conn., was the son of Stephen Barnum, who participated in the siege of Yorktown at the capture of Cornwallis. Dr. Barnum came to this town (Alford) about 1800. He received only an English education, studied medicine with Dr. Burghardt of Richmond, and became the successor of Dr. Hurlbut not long after his death. Dr. B. died 1828, age 38." (Ticknor.)

Of the New Marlboro early physicians we know next to nothing.

Doctor *Elihu Wright*, Dr. *Ebenezer Parish*.

Doctor *Benjamin Smith* was one of the founders of the Medical Association in 1787, but was the minority of one who refused to sign the rules, and we hear nothing more from him.

Doctor *Elijah Catlin* was admitted to practice by the Censors of the Medical Association. He "has exhibited his Proficiency in the several branches of Physical Knowledge to Satisfaction, is, therefore, hereby recommended to the Publick, as duly qualified, by a regular Education, to enter upon the duties of the Profession. Dated at Pittsfield, this Eighth Day of January, 1788."

Doctors *Jacob Hoit* and *Reuben Buckman* were admitted at the same time.

Doctor *Catlin* died June 5, 1823, aged 61 years.

Doctor *Gilbert Smith* died about 1804.

Doctor *Edmund C. Peet* died May 6, 1828, age 44.

The earliest physician of Becket was Doctor *O. Brewster*.

The following sketch of his life is from the "Panoplist" for Aug. 1812:

"Doctor *Oliver Brewster* of Becket, was born at Lebanon, Conn., April 2, 1760. A lineal descendant of the pilgrims of

the Mayflower. At a very early age he obtained his profession and was employed as a surgeon in the American army, in a regiment from Berkshire under Col. John Brown of Pittsfield, in the valley of the Mohawk. On the morning before the action at Herkimer, he was breakfasting with some officers of the regiment to which he belonged. The colonel observing the company to eat but little began to reproach them with cowardice. He said 'These fellows, Brewster, have got lead in their stomachs. Why! the battle will not last more than five minutes, and you can all of you live in hell so long.' They went immediately into action, when in less than five minutes the colonel fell and Dr. Brewster was called just in time to see him expire."

"His labors in his profession were indefatigably faithful and successful. In most instances, particularly in acute diseases, his practice was eminently successful. Beneficence was a well-known trait in his character. This was particularly experienced by his patients to whom, when poor, he was not only a physician, but a father, relieving their wants to the extent of his ability."

"His professional charges were remarkably moderate and his collections of them from persons of humble means—if collected at all—was in the most favorable way possible. His worldly prosperity was due to his industry and economy of time."

"In his family his fidelity as a christian father was remarkable and exemplary."

"Decision and determination were indeed characteristics of the man."

"He stood as a pillar in the church in which he was deacon. Religion was to him a delight, not a burden; it abounded in him, and in mixed companies his conversation upon it possessed that readiness and force which manifested his intimate acquaintance, both with its theory and spirit. Feb. 15, 1812, he was visiting a very sick lady in imminent danger. Walking the room in deep anxiety, 'I know not,' said he, 'what more we can do, but we must all pray for her, and pray for ourselves.' He was immediately seized with an apoplectic attack, losing all consciousness, in which state he lay for six hours,

when he died in the harness and in the fullness and richness of his manhood."

"The next road (second) through Berkshire was probably along the Deerfield valley, over the Hoosic mountain, past Fort Massachusetts, through Williamstown, etc. Fort Massachusetts being built about 1744, a road or trail was probably in use then." (Keith.)

The following sketch is from the pen of Dr. Stephen W. Williams, the grandson of Dr. Thomas Williams, whose life and work is of historic interest to this County.

"Doctor *Thomas Williams*, was second son of Col. Ephraim Williams of Stockbridge, who was of the third generation in lineal descent from M. Robert Williams, who landed at Boston and settled in Roxbury, Mass., in 1630, ten years after the landing of the pilgrims on the rock at Plymouth, and eight years after the first settlement of Boston. Thomas was born at Newton, Mass., April 1, 1718. He received the honorary degree of Master of Arts from Yale College about the year 1737, and studied the profession with Dr. Wheat of Boston. (In those days such a thing as a medical degree was not known in this state.) He settled at Deerfield as a physician and surgeon about the year 1739, and was held in great estimation by the government, not alone as a physician and surgeon, but as a man of science.

So, in the projected expedition against Canada, in the French war of 1743, he was appointed surgeon in the army, afterwards surgeon of the chain of forts extending from Fort Dummer, at Vernon in Vermont, to Fort Massachusetts at Adams. Dr. Williams was often in great peril, for he was frequently obliged to pass these forts. It is related of him that a day or two before the capitulation of Fort Massachusetts, which happened on the 20th of August, 1746, he obtained permission of the commandant of the garrison to return to Deerfield. At a little distance from the fort he, with thirteen attendants, passed through a company of hostile Indians on each side of the path, and very near, yet they let him pass unmolested for fear, probably, of alarming the garrison by firing. He was at Deerfield

at the Barrs fight, so-called, a few days afterward and dressed the wounded.

In the war of 1755 he was surgeon in the army under Sir William Johnson at Lake George. And, in the encampment at the head of Lake George, four miles from the scene of action, on the bloody morning scout, Sept. 8, 1755, received the news of the death of his brother, Col. Ephraim Williams, the founder of Williams College. On the attack of Dieskau's troops upon the encampment the same day, constantly exposed to the fire of the enemy, he was incessantly administering to the necessities of the wounded, and dressed the wound of Dieskau, who was taken prisoner.

His practice was very arduous, as his ride was very extensive, he being the only surgeon in this part of the country. The old county of Hampshire then included the county of Berkshire, and Dr. Pynchon of Springfield, and Dr. Mather of Northampton, were his contemporaries, who, together with himself, were the principal physicians. He was often called into the states of Vermont and New Hampshire. He kept himself supplied with the most approved European authors and read extensively. In addition to his duties as physician and surgeon, he held the office of Justice of the Peace under the Crown; also that of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas and of Probate. He was also many years Town Clerk. He also educated many young men as physicians, who became eminent and useful.

He was a firm believer in the truth of the doctrines of the Christian religion, was a member of Rev. Jonathan Ashley's church and his devoted friend. He was always spoken of with great respect and love by those who knew him.

His sickness was consumption, from a severe cold caught in his professional duties, causing his death on the 28th of September, 1775, in the 58th year of his age.

"Doctor *Elisha Lee Allen*, Pittsfield, son of Rev. Thomas Allen, born 1783, died at Pas Christian, Louisiana, Sept. 5, 1817, falling a victim to his conscientious and zealous performance of duty in attending upon soldiers' suffering from yellow fever. He was assistant surgeon of the 21st, and in

1815, when the army was reduced to a peace basis, was retained as surgeon's mate.

Another surgeon's mate and worthy of mention is Dr. Perez Marsh, the son of Capt. Job. Marsh, born at Hadley, Oct. 25, 1729, and a Yale graduate in 1748. He was a physician and surgeon's mate in the regiment of Col. Ephraim Williams, 1755. Between that and 1761, he settled at Ashuelot Equivalent (Dalton.) His further judicial history is given by Mr. H. Taft, Esq., in his paper, "Judicial History of Berkshire."

The history of medicine would be very incomplete without that of the "Medical Association," which was formed in 1787.

"COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

In the year of our Lord, 1781.

AN ACT, *To incorporate Certain physicians, by the name of the Massachusetts Medical Society.*"

This was enacted and approved by John Hancock.

Among the names of physicians thus incorporated we find the name of William Whiting of Great Barrington.

In Oct., 1785, the parent society appointed Dr. Sargeant and Dr. Partridge a committee in this county "for the purpose of encouraging the communications of all important or extraordinary cases that may occur in the practice of the Medical Art, and for this purpose to meet, correspond and communicate with any individuals or any Association of Physicians that have been or may be formed in their respective counties and make a report from time to time of their doings to this society as occasion may require." But, as we may presume, notwithstanding the efforts and solicitations of this committee, and earnest men they were, the meeting for the formation of an association did not occur until Jan. 16, 1787, at Stockbridge.

The morning of Jan. 16, 1787, was cold and clear. It need to have been, for the physicians of Berkshire were summoned to meet on that day at Stockbridge. In obedience to the call William Whiting, John Budd and Samuel Baldwin started from Barrington; James Cowdrey and Amos Smith from Sandisfield; Gideon Thompson from Lee; Jacob Kingsbury from Tyringham; Oliver Brewster from Becket; Joseph Clark from Richmond; Hezekiah Clark from Lanesboro'; Eldad Lewis

from Lenox; John Hurlbut from Alford, and David Church.

Through the dense woods, sparkling, as their branches hung with silver crystals, were lit by the morning sun, over the deep drifts which the storm had piled in fantastic heaps around, plodding their way with stout, resolute hearts, on horseback, they came from the various points of compass, treading their way to the house of one Mrs. Bingham, of Stockbridge. Drs. Sargeant and Partridge were there to meet them. This meeting had been anticipated for more than a year.

These grave and revered seignors, when they had thoroughly warmed themselves at the deep fire-place filled with blazing logs, and had discussed a goodly quantity of mulled toddy, earnestly discussed the potentous event which this day commemorates.

It was mid-winter, hard and cold. Would it be possible with the social storm added, for the infant to survive. But there are certain events which will happen whether or no, and really before these gray haired sires were ready the child was born. Anglo-Saxon in origin, moulded from the tough fibre of Puritan stock this fair and lusty infant gave such vigorous manifestations of a determination to surmount all the diseases and obstacles which lie in the path of infantile life, that the attending physicians put aside their fond fears and christened the baby "Medical Association." The history of this creation whose paternity was the Massachusetts Medical Society, for somewhat more than a year before Drs. Sargeant and Partridge had been appointed a committee "to form an association for the purpose of observing and communicating those things which may be for the improvement of the art of physick, and of encouraging a spirit of union with those of the Faculty, and of rendering the Faculty more respectable"—this history from then till now may be conveniently divided into four periods.

1st. That from Jan. 16, 1787, to Jan. 8, 1788.

2d. That from Nov. 12, 1794, to Jan. 7, 1796.

3d. That from May 4, 1720, to Sept. 1837.

4th. That from March 2, 1842, to the present time.

In this first period, or formative stage, none of the fifteen physicians were north of Lanesboro. The force of cohesion

first exerted itself and the organization was effected with the choice of Dr. William Whiting president, and Dr. Oliver Partridge secretary. They then chose a committee to select such laws for the best method of securing this union, *i. e.*, Drs. Whiting, Sargeant, Lewis, Hurlbut and Partridge, and as would further the three objects clearly set forth :

1st. "The purpose of observing and communicating those things which may be for the improvement of the art of physick."

2d. "The encouraging a spirit of union with those of the Faculty."

3d. "The rendering the Faculty more respectable."

The interim between Jan. 16th and May 1st, the time to which the meeting was adjourned, was politically a stormy one, and when May 1st seven met, they were a forlorn band.

Why? Feb. 27, a little over a month since the triumphant consolidation, history says, "a party of men halted at the public house then kept by Mrs. Bingham," no doubt helping themselves to a goodly portion of that which Falstaff so highly praised as creative of valor; then they proceeded to the house of Dr. Sargeant and took as prisoners Drs. Sargeant and Partridge, and the medical students, Hopkins and Catlin; and, 'mirabile dictu,' stole Mercy Scott's silver shoe buckles." That was what's the matter. Some dastardly one hoss shay so stooped to conquer that he took Mercy's shoe buckles, silver at that.

We can't wonder this second meeting of seven was profoundly disturbed, and could only say, "whereas the tumults of the times are so great" and they came near saying, as to lead some dastardly wretch to steal Mercy Scott's silver shoe buckles, but they turned it off and said, "as to prevent a meeting. We agree to adjourn and come back on the 12th of June."

And they did, and more, for in response to the urgent solicitations of their secretary fourteen were present at the third meeting, Drs. Timothy Childs of Pittsfield, and Asahel Wright of Windsor, among them.

It requires but little imagination to picture these enthusiasts

gathered for the purpose of improving the art of physic and encouraging a spirit of union, discussing with zeal the tough cases in their practice and with greater warmth the social tumult which had upheaved the foundations of society making prisoners of Sargeant and Claflin, stealing Mercy's shoe buckles, overthrowing the altars of justice, setting friend against friend, household against household, gathering around their appointed orator, Dr. Eldad Lewis, listening to his scholarly and noble address with rapt attention.

Hear him: "A society of physicians united upon liberal principles, offers a fine opportunity for improvement from the communications of the several members. Important incidents recurring in private practice will by this means be rescued from oblivion, talents will be stimulated to exercise which otherwise might have lain dormant and useless, as there will be the greatest and most noble excitement to a laudable emulation and industry."

In speaking of the "splendor and dignity" of the profession in other counties, he says, "This great and desirable purpose can never be obtained until all those low and disagreeable ideas of rivalry that have hitherto actuated physicians be discarded and sentiments more liberal and philanthropic be adopted:—the general prosperity of the whole can never be obtained but by the united efforts of all the the parts, so long as we are actuated by the meanness of jealousy and opposition to each other the Faculty will be subjected to every species of vexation and contempt."

As we listen we are forcibly struck with the wording of the vote we have noticed, at the formation of the society, showing clearly who was the prime spirit in the Association.

Rule 8. "All decent familiarity be allowed in said meetings in conversing on physical subjects, and no inadvertance or misapprehension of any matter through inattention be made a subject of ridicule, but shall be corrected with that lenity which becometh friends." This rule takes us back to that part of the address, which says, "while in this country there are no methods of education but the fortuitous instruction of private gentlemen and those often the most worthless and unlearned."

He evidently was thinking that the stream would be no better than the fountain whence it flows.

Rule 6th smacks strongly of the old puritan whack.

“Any person residing within the limits of this county, and pretending to practice physic and shall refuse after due notification to become a member by attending the meetings and subscribing the rules, he shall be treated with entire neglect by all that are members, in medical matters.” These rules were signed by thirteen of the fourteen present. Benjamin Smith of New Marlboro, was the minority of one. How resolute in his defiance he must have been to have called down on his devoted head the contempt and “neglect” of his thirteen professional brethren.

1st. The first meeting was Jan. 16th, not June. *Fifteen* were present at that meeting, including Hezekiah Clark from Lanesboro, *north* of Pittsfield.

2d. The second meeting was in May. Seven physicians present.

3d. The third meeting was June 12th. Fourteen physicians present, at which time rules were presented and signed by thirteen of the fourteen physicians present. (See Society Record.)

We give a sketch of the Secretary of the Association, Dr. Partridge.

“Doctor *Oliver Partridge* was born April 26, 1751; in Hatfield, and studied medicine there, and removed to Stockbridge in 1771. He began the active practice of his profession in 1773 and died in July, 1848. He had lived in one house seventy-seven years, and had been in the profession seventy-five years. Throughout this long period he was engaged in the study and practice of medicine. He was a careful observer of nature, a student of botany and interested in the study of the medicinal plants of this country. He even engaged in a public discussion of the merits of some of our indigenous plants with Dr. Thatcher of

Note of correction.—In the History of Pittsfield, 2d Vol., occurs this statement: “In June, 1787, fifteen physicians all from towns south of Pittsfield met at Stockbridge for the purpose of forming (such) a society; but the “tumults of the times (the Shay’s Rebellion) prevented any further action, except the choice of officers, until the 12th of June, when articles of association and rules were drawn up and signed by fourteen physicians.” This is an erroneous statement.

Plymouth, after they were both past the age of four-score. And even when he was more than ninety-five years old he corresponded with an eminent physician concerning a case of some doubt. He was particularly skillful in chronic complaints and in detecting the diseases of children.

It is said that he was with the volunteers who marched to the battle of Bennington, or had hurried on before them, and he often related that during the busy scenes that followed the battle he noticed and spoke of the blood upon the sleeve of Capt. Stoddard.

In Sept., 1784, a vote was passed which gave to Dr. Partridge the liberty of erecting at his own expense a "high pew," so-called, over the entrance doors of the gallery to be used by him as he pleased during his residence in the town, except so much of it as should be occupied by the tything men."

His mind held out to the last. "Only four weeks before his death his deposition was taken by one of his lawyers, and his memory was so accurate that he would not sign it until it was altered to conform exactly to what he had told the party some months previous."

"Thus with quiet diligence he passed more than three-quarters of a century in the cure of disease and the study of natural history, possessing always the love and confidence of his fellow men, and died after having enjoyed more happiness than falls to the common lot of man." (History Stockbridge.)

The history of Dr. Lewis is very imperfect.

Doctor *Eldad Lewis* of Lenox, was one of the founders of the Berkshire Medical Society, and the first orator delivering an ornate and quite lengthy paper. The tone of this, the first literary production of the society, was very high.

This is his introduction :

"*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Association :—*Having long lamented the many disadvantages under which the Faculty have labored in America, it gives me the highest satisfaction to perceive the gloom which has hitherto been an inseparable bar to all improvements to be dispersing and that the light of true science and rational knowledge begins to illuminate our hemisphere.

I have exerted myself for years to procure its establishment, and nothing shall in future be neglected, that lies within my power to raise it to the highest degree of usefulness and respectability."

This was in 1787. I have been unable to ascertain the facts of his history, only that he was a man of very great ability and influence in the county in his day. He removed from Lenox and resided in the latter years of his life in the state of New York.

Mr. Stanly, Lenox, says, "With regard to Dr. Eldad Lewis, I am surprised at the incompleteness of my own knowledge of his history, having had considerable acquaintance with him. That a man who resided here for more than a quarter of a century—a magistrate, taking an important part in public affairs—an active member of the Congregational church, deputed to attend ecclesiastical councils—one of the foremost in establishing our first Town Library—publishing in this town a political campaign paper, one of the earliest papers printed in the county,—one of the founders of our Academy and one of its earliest trustees—a good classical scholar, an elegant and forcible writer, a thorough medical student and writer of medical essays and successful practitioner—and, that before two generations have passed, no one here can tell when or where he was born, and no one knows when or where he was buried, any more than they know where Moses was buried, seems remarkable. A man rendering such services to a community ought not so soon to pass out of memory, and with the materials we have, I trust a more complete account of him may be obtained, but it may require considerable correspondence and of course take time to accomplish it.

He was here as early as 1788, and removed from the town about 1820."

"Doctor *Erastus Sergeant* of Stockbridge, was the eldest son of the Rev. Erastus Sergeant, the first minister of Stockbridge, the missionary to the Housatonnuc Indians there, and one of the very first white settlers in that town. It is believed that Dr. Sargeant was the first white male child born in Stockbridge, in the year 1742.

He was fitted for college by his father, entered Princeton, remained two or three years but did not graduate there. He studied medicine with Dr. Thomas Williams of Deerfield, with whom he studied the usual period of two years, and commenced the practice of physic and surgery at Stockbridge about 1746, and immediately established a fine business. He was much relied upon as councillor and in difficult cases was the last resort. He was a most excellent surgeon and performed nearly all the capital operations in his circle of practice, which extended over a diameter of thirty miles, and was considered to be very successful in his operations, even in cases which were considered to be desperate.

He educated several students who became eminent practitioners.

He was elected a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1785, and was a member twenty-nine years, in which period he was often chosen as Counsellor." (Williams' Medical Biography.)

Dr. Partridge observes, "He was endowed with a judgment and skill in his profession, was sedate, with a large share of christian grace, and he was truly the beloved physician. It was said of him that no one ever spoke ill of him from his youth up."

In "History of Stockbridge" is this note: "During the summer of 1776 a regiment from Berkshire proceeded to Ticonderoga, and as Dr. Erastus Sergeant was one summer at Ticonderoga under Capt. Cook of Curtisville, and his son remembers to have seen the muster roll among his father's papers, the probability is that he was orderly sergeant in the company." So it reads, but, as he had been in practice of medicine and surgery twelve years, there is some doubt whether he exercised the office of orderly sergeant.

In Shay's rebellion his house was visited and they took as prisoners Drs. Sergeant, Partridge and Catlin.

Dr. Sergeant was tall, erect and spare in flesh. The latter period of his life he had pulmonary disease, and Nov. 14, 1814, while sitting at the dinner table he was attacked with a fit of

coughing, succeeded by such a violent hemorrhage, that it speedily terminated his life at the age of 72 years.

“*Doctor Erastus Sergeant, Jr.*, son of Dr. Erastus Sergeant of Stockbridge, was born at Stockbridge, 1772, graduated at Dartmouth College 1792, and settled in Lee in 1794. He was a genial, well-informed man, a skillful physician and had an extensive practice. He died in Lee in 1832.”

“*John Crocker* was from Barnstable, a graduate of Harvard, and early settled in Richmond. He was small in size and stature and had what is not uncommon to such men rather an irritable disposition which, no doubt, detracted much from his popularity and made his practice very limited. He died where the most of long life had been spent in 1815, at the age of 95 years.

Of these physicians who attended the first meeting no history has been found. Dr. David Church, Dr. Samuel Baldwin, Dr. Jabez Cowdrey of Sandisfield, Dr. Jacob Kingsbury of Tyringham. Dr. Gideon Thompson of Lee, was the first physician in Lee. He was a native of Goshen, Conn., practiced there only a few years, and removed to Galway, N. Y.

Of those attending the second meeting, Dr. Thaddeus Thompson was from Lenox; Drs. Joseph Brewster and Ephraim Durham have no history.

Of the new members at the third meeting were Drs. Timothy Childs, Asahel Wright, John Wright, Lyman Norton, Samuel Frisbie. The three latter have no history.

These earnest men said: “Notwithstanding the present discouragements to continue to associate and not dissolve,”—so January 8, 1788, they met and began work. They admitted Jonathan Lee of Pittsfield, an assistant of Dr. T. Childs in the army, and Ephraim Durwin. The censors examined and passed Elijah Catlin, Reuben Buckman and Jacob Hoit. They agreed to meet in June in Stockbridge, “but the rebellion proceeded,” says the Journal, “so rapidly to a crisis,” that our infant prodigy took refuge in the wilderness, and was heard of no more till the latter part of ’94.

It is not difficult to see what were the causes which drew the mourning lines on the journal at the end of the first period.

Considering that the usual place of meeting was the public house, also the social custom of the time for drinking, it would seem impossible in this turmoil of Shay's rebellion to have kept discussions of it and rancor engendered by it, from mingling in the business of the hour. In addition to this was the difficulty of travel, and also that each of these physicians practiced over a wide stretch of territory. These factors were sufficient to quell the ardor and high ideal of these representative men.

Doctor *Joseph Clark* of Richmond, and one of its earliest physicians, as also one of the fifteen at the first meeting of the association of Berkshire physicians, was from Springfield. He was a very successful practitioner and a man of great influence in the affairs of the community. After residing for a few years in Richmond he was solicited by friends in Vermont to remove to that state. After removing there he had a long and successful practice. The year of his death is not known.

"Doctor *Timothy Childs* was one of the leading patriots of Pittsfield in the Revolution. His father was Capt. Timothy Childs, who led a company of minute men from Deerfield on receiving the news of the battle of Lexington, at the same time that Dr. Timothy was marching as lieutenant with a similar corps from Pittsfield. Dr. Childs was born at Deerfield in 1748, entered Harvard in 1764, but did not graduate. He studied medicine in his native town with Dr. Thomas Williams and established himself in practice in Pittsfield in 1771. This young physician was a valuable accession to the whigs. He soon won popularity and influence, proved himself an effective speaker, and by the rich qualities of mind and heart, as well as by the contagion of his youthful zeal, gave a new impulse to the cause of independence which he espoused.

In 1774, August 15th, he and John Strong drew up the petition of the inhabitants of the town of Pittsfield to the "Hon. old court, not to transact any business this present term," which, not admitting a refusal, resulted in the suppression forever of the courts of law under royal commission in Berkshire.

In the spring '74, he asked permission to "set up inoculation in Pittsfield." The town meeting of '75 denied him permission but granted it in '76, but with hesitancy and embarrassing con-

ditions." This circumstances speaks for the boldness and push of this young doctor, for the first inoculating hospitals in the state were only opened in 1764 in the vicinity of Boston, and in '76 William Aspinwall and Samuel Hayward prepared at Brooklin—probably on account of the appearance of small-pox at Cambridge in '75—for private inoculation, and it required high courage thus early in this county to face the danger and unpopularity of this measure.

In the winter of '74 and 5 he was one of the committee of "instruction, inspection and correspondence."

Dr. Childs first marched as one of its lieutenants in a company of minute men composed of the flower of Pittsfield and Richmond April 22, '74, but was soon detailed as surgeon; afterwards appointed regimental surgeon with Dr. Jonathan Lee of Pittsfield, who was afterwards surgeon, as his assistant.

In 1792 a committee was appointed "to see if Dr. Childs might safely be permitted to build a medicine store on the west side of the meeting-house," and their report was that he might safely be permitted to do so.

In the war of 1812 he was appointed as visiting physician to the prisoners in Pittsfield and Cheshire, and the Marshal of Massachusetts writing to him says, "That your services have been constant, arduous and successful was to be expected from your well-known character for patriotism, zeal and professional skill, and it was from these considerations that when I proposed the appointment I felt peculiarly gratified that you signified your acceptance."

His obituary from *The Pittsfield Sun*, reads thus: "In this town, Feb. 25, 1821, after an illness of a few days, died Dr. Timothy Childs, aged 73. He had long enjoyed the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens and his death is a severe public loss and deeply regretted. As a physician he was eminently useful and skillful, always extending his aid to the relief of the poor and the destitute as readily as to the affluent. As a public man he was a faithful, able and ardent advocate of the people's rights, and our republican form of government, and during the struggle for independence he participated actively and zealously by every means in his power to promote the views and objects

of the heroes and patriots of the Revolution. Their triumphs in that glorious cause were therefore ever dear to his heart and he lived long enough to witness in the structure of our government the fulfillment of all he had so fondly anticipated. As a testimony of the people's confidence for many years they elected him to represent them, both in the House of Representatives and Senate, which stations he filled to the perfect satisfaction of his friends. In his last moments he was calm and resigned to the will of Providence; enjoyed his reason perfectly, and departed without a struggle."

This minute occurs upon the journal of the Berkshire Medical Society: "That, whereas, in the course of the dispensation of Divine Providence, it has pleased Almighty God to remove by death from our meetings and counsels of this society our late revered and respected President, the late Timothy Childs, of Pittsfield, M. D. Whereupon the society declare and direct the same to be entered on their records. That, while they bend with humble submission to the rod, they deeply feel and sadly deplore their loss."

"Doctor *Asahel Wright* of Windsor, was born Feb. 26, 1757. He first married Mary Worthington, by whom he had ten children. His two eldest sons were educated at Williams College. Five of them, Orin, Erastus, Uriel, Clark and Julius were physicians; one, Worthington, a D. D.; one, Asahel, a L. L. D.; one, Philo, a farmer.

His father, Asa Wright, was an architect, and accompanied Rev. Mr. Wheelock from Lebanon, to Hanover, N. H., where he superintended the erection of Dartmouth College buildings. His son, Asahel, entered Dartmouth College where he remained through junior year, but the death of his father made it necessary for him to leave college. He then studied medicine, and afterwards served as surgeon in the navy of the Revolutionary war. He then settled in Windsor, about 1781, and practiced not only in Windsor, but Dalton, Peru, Hinsdale and other towns 'till Dr. Kittredge settled in Hinsdale. His daughter, Mrs. Herick, says, "My father was a man of remarkable energy and fine health. I have heard him speak of riding to these places on horseback guided by marked trees." He freely gave his

services to the poor. He was a regular attendant upon Sabbath worship and a supporter of the gospel. He was genial, enjoying a joke, dealing them out to his patients when he thought they needed no medicine. Highly respected and beloved and eminently useful, he spent a long life honorably, and died Feb. 16, 1834. (Correspondence.)

In the second period, which commenced Nov. 12, '94, an interim of nearly seven years, the first meeting also at Stockbridge had fifteen members, all south of Pittsfield. The affairs of the association were conducted by nearly the same persons as before. Dr. Whiting had died. There were in all six meetings, and five new men were added to the society. They stated the object of the association and in nearly the same terms, and adopted nearly the same rules.

The term of pupilage was fixed at three years, and none could become pupils until they had "a good knowledge of mathematics and the English language, and can construe and parse the Latin language with accuracy." They began with four meetings yearly; but at the last meeting, Jan. 7, 1796, at which but four were present, they voted to meet twice yearly. They adjourned to meet at the same place on the second Tuesday of January, but there was no meeting except the censors who examined and admitted Ralph Wilcox and Jonathan Whitney to the society.

What put the quietus upon the second period, we can only conjecture. There is apparent harmony. The turbid social condition has passed away. May it not have been that there were too many rules; that they were too rigid; that there was too little elasticity to them? For example:

Rule 2. "Any one absenting himself from two successive meetings shall render a satisfactory excuse for his absence."

Rule 16, (part) "We will treat each other with decency, honor and candor, and not detract from each other's character as physician."

Now a condition of feeling which necessitates such rules as these with a penalty added for infraction, is not one which could render a long association possible. Tinkering of rules and ethical questions, carried to any great extent will be the

death of any medical association. The reports by the Secretary are merely matters of business and are not instructive in any branch of medicine. In June 9, '96, the record is once more closed, and we wait twenty-three years, almost a quarter of a century before the opening of the third period.

Of Doctors Joseph Waldo, Elijah Fowler, Elnathan Pratt, and Davin Goodwin we have no histories.

Doctor *Samuel Carrington* of Sandisfield, was one of the committee on revision of rules.

“Rule 9. A Box shall be opened each meeting for the reception *incognito* of questions, answers, cases and essays on medical subjects, which shall be read by the Secretary and kept on file; all questions shall be numbered and the answers to them shall have corresponding numbers. Subsequently voted, That the Box be examined. Several papers were found in the Box, read before the society and placed on file.”

Next meeting. “The Box was examined and a dissertation on Inflammation and the formation of Pus was found therein; read before the society and placed on file.”

As Dr. Jones was then “associated” we give a sketch of his life.

“Doctor *Horatio Jones* of Stockbridge, son of Capt. Josiah Jones of that place, and grandson of one of the first persons who were chosen as companions of the first missionary and school master to the Housatonnuc Indians, was born Dec. 30, 1769. He entered Yale College in early life and pursued his studies so zealously that his eyesight failed, and he was obliged to abandon his studies. Of active disposition, with several others, he went to what was then called the Genesee Country for the purpose of laying out lands as a surveyor. In this business his health and sight were restored, and he returned to his studies, entering as a student of medicine the office of Dr. Sergeant. Before commencing practice as a physician, he engaged for awhile as a druggist in Stockbridge. He commenced practice in Pittsfield, where he remained more than a year.

Being invited by Dr. Sergeant, then in the decline of life, to settle in Stockbridge, he accepted the invitation. In the

winter of 1805 and 6, probably a few years after he commenced practice in Stockbridge, he went to Philadelphia for the purpose of improving himself more particularly in the department of surgery. He spent the winter there in attendance upon the various courses of lectures, and then returned to Stockbridge where he remained till his death."

He became a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1804 and received the honorary degree of A. M. from Williams College in 1810.

Mrs. Fairchild, his daughter, says that "he was a man of science, eminent in his profession, a good operator in surgery; active, social and very popular; indefatigable by night and day to give relief in cases of distress or danger." There was that in his manner which seemed to add efficacy to the medicines which he administered, and his visits were often acknowledged to be beneficial to his patients when he made no prescription. Miss Sedgwick said of him: "Our beloved physician who gave us smiles instead of drugs."

"He was unremitting in his attention to the poor, even when he knew he could secure no pecuniary reward." From History of Stockbridge I take this sketch:

"As a man, he combined in himself all those excellencies and virtues which constituted him just what the excellent and virtuous wished him to be. As a scholar, he was eminent. His researches were deep, thorough and effectual. As a physician, he had but few equals. In addition to his extensive knowledge he possessed—in eminent degree—the talent of rendering himself pleasing, easy and agreeable to his patients. Without any regard to his own ease or quiet he devoted all his time and talents to the service of the public, and possessed the entire confidence of all. He was an eminent christian.

In the spring of 1813, "pneumonia typhoides," an epidemic then so-called, was very prevalent in many places. He had been incessant in his labors with the sick, and eight days before his death was violently seized with the disease; yet continuing in the unimpaired use of his reason, and glorying that God and Savior, who by grace, had fitted him for the death of the righteous, and crying when the scenes of earth were fading from his

vision, 'Lord, Jesus receive my spirit,' fell asleep, April 26th, 1813, at the early age of forty-three years. His funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Hyde of Lee, and the concourse of mourners from Stockbridge and neighboring towns attested the deep interest taken in the life and death of this eminent and good man."

In the third period, in Lenox, July 1, 1819, we change to "a meeting of fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society. "The voices to which we were accustomed, we listen for in vain. The places of Sergeant, Jones, Partridge and Lewis are occupied by others of a succeeding generation upon whom their mantle of a high professional ideal has fallen. Drs. Burghardt, H. H. Childs, Robert Worthington, Asa Burbank, Alfred Perry, Orin Wright, H. S. Sabin, Wm. H. Tyler, Daniel Collins, Royal Fowler, Hubbard Bartlett, these were the men who were standard bearers from 1820 to 1834. The medical center had now moved to Lenox with an annual and semi-annual meeting, but in consequence, later, of the establishment of the Berkshire Medical Institute, the semi-annual was held at Pittsfield. In this revival of the society Dr. Timothy Childs of Pittsfield, was first President, elected May 4, 1820; but full of years and honors he died while president, aged seventy-three.

The journal says, "Our late revered and respected president." The word "revered" is one which sheds light upon his character, and would not have been used without there had been joined to his character as physician, those other higher spiritual qualities which are so ennobling.

Doctor *Hugo Burghardt*, the first Vice-president of the third period, a native of Great Barrington, was born 1771. He was a graduate of Yale College. He studied medicine with Dr. Sergeant of Stockbridge, and commenced practice in Richmond in 1790, and continued the beloved physician till 1820, when declining health obliged him to relinquish general practice, though after that, called in council in obstinate cases. His practice extended to other towns where he often had the charge of acute cases. Confidence in his skill extended as far as his name was known. He educated many students who went from his office as their Alma Mater, many of whom dis-

tinguished themselves in medicine in different sections of the country.

“In person, he was a specimen of the noblest productions of nature; tall, with a well-proportioned physical organization; erect and graceful in all his movements, he won the notice and admiration of all. Affable in his manners, his geniality threw a halo around his path and made him a most welcome visitor to scenes of suffering and sorrow. In discussion, he was strictly logical, clear and convincing. As a citizen, he regarded the interests of the community as his own, and gave his influence strongly in their behalf.”

In Shay's Rebellion, says the writer of Berkshire County History, 138, “a body of men coming on from Lenox under Capt. William Walker, lost of the militia two killed and one wounded.” The person wounded was Dr. Burghardt of Richmond.

Those whose memories treasure facts that transpired seventy years ago will recollect that the war of 1812 drew political lines so strong that brother was often at implacable war with brother, and it was not unusual for men's strong and most vindictive foes to be of their own family. Dr. Burghardt took an active part in this war of feeling and the pecuniary sacrifices he made to sustain and give ascendancy to his party were his pecuniary ruin.” He died Oct. 18, 1822, aged fifty-one years.

In Sept. 1822, the Medical Society passed and presented to him the following vote:

“That the thanks of the society be presented to Dr. Hugo Burghardt, our late president, for the zeal and interest manifested by him in promoting the establishment and prosperity of the society, also for the ability and dignity displayed by him as presiding officer of this society, regretting that the state of his health would not permit him to continue in said office.”

From History of Stockbridge, page 218: “Doctor *Alfred Perry*, Secretary of the society 1820, was born in Harwinton, Connecticut, where his father was then pastor, but in 1784 removed to Richmond, in this county, with his parents. In 1803 he was graduated at Williams College. For several years he was in feeble health, but taught for a time in West-

field Academy, and for a few years in South Carolina, whither he had gone for his health. He completed his studies at the Philadelphia Institution then under the care of Dr. Rush, and commenced practice in Williamstown. Nov. 1, 1814, he was married to Miss Lucy Benjamin of that town, and in Nov. 1815, he removed to Stockbridge. In 1837 he went to Illinois, and having fixed upon a location removed his family in June, 1838, but died Sept. 10th of the same year.

As a Christian and a deacon in the church, Dr. Perry was peculiarly active; and, as a physician, fervently beloved by his patients, and trusted with a fearlessness which was sometimes denominated idolatry. He was a man of great patience and firmness, and differed from many of his day in both his religious and his medical views; and in religious matters, though he steadfastly adhered to what he believed to be right, still he maintained an unusual degree of quietness and self-possession, and when convinced of an error, no man was more prompt to acknowledge it and seek forgiveness. An auxiliary temperance society was formed through the energetic efforts of Dr. Perry as early as the summer of '27, and we believe '26."

On the revival of the Medical Society in 1820, after its sleep of over twenty years, Dr. Perry was elected Secretary, and onwards to near the time of his leaving for the west, was a very active and influential member, and for a number of years was President.

"He was generally in advance of his time on all subjects of moral reform, such as temperance and slavery—in thorough sympathy with all progressive movements, ideas in theology and medicine. An auxiliary temperance society was formed in Stockbridge as early as the summer of '26 or '27 through the energetic efforts of Dr. Perry when it was exceedingly unpopular to be on the side of total abstinence, and the same was true as respects the side of anti-slavery."

In the words of one who knew him best:—"He was a conscientious, devoted Christian; he never let self stand between God and duty. I have known him," she says, "let a neighbor take his horse to go to mill, at the same time he walked four miles to visit a patient."

“He went to the west against the earnest opposition of friends, following his own convictions in respect to his duty, even unto death.”

VOTED.—Sept. 13, 1821, To hear the dissertation of Dr. Asa Burbank.

VOTED.—The thanks of the Society to Dr. Burbank for his learned and elegant dissertation.

“Doctor *Asa Burbank* was born in Williamstown, Mass., Sept. 28, 1773. He devoted his early life to study; graduated at Williams College in 1797, and in the year 1798 he was appointed a tutor in that college, which office he held two years. In the year 1800 he commenced the study of medicine in the office, it is believed, of the celebrated Dr. William Towner, a distinguished physician and surgeon in Williamstown. He attended one or two courses of medical lectures in the medical school of the city of New York, under the direction and instruction of the eminent Dr. Post and other distinguished professors in that celebrated institution, then connected with Columbia College. He then commenced the practice of his profession in Lanesboro'. Here he continued in extensive and lucrative practice, not only in this, but in most of the neighboring towns, giving universal satisfaction. In 1824 he removed to Albany where he remained four years, till he was attacked with dropsy of the brain, which was probably brought on by a fall, and injury of the head, in 1824, and which induced him to leave the theatre of his active usefulness at Albany, and return to Williamstown. Here he became blind, and remained so for nine months. Dr. Burbank stood high in the estimation of his professional brethren, as well as of the public. In the year 1822, about the time of the establishment of the Berkshire Medical Institution connected with Williams College, he was appointed Professor of Obstetrics, and continued his useful labors for two years, giving great satisfaction to the students, when he resigned and removed to Albany.” Dr. Williams says, “I was intimately acquainted with him in this institution where I was a fellow laborer with him in the department of medical jurisprudence, and I can bear ample testimony to his worth and usefulness. He was one of the most companionable

and facetious of men, and his happy turn of relating anecdotes, of which an abundance was stored in his capacious mind, often kept an assemblage of his friends in a roar of laughter. He had a most happy and enviable faculty of cheering up the minds of his patients, even in the most desponding cases, and often of smoothing their pillows in their descent to the grave. No one can doubt that he was both a moral and a highly religious man."

In a letter from his daughter she says, "In his profession his love for doing good seemed to be the governing principle of his life. I think he braved the winter storms of old Berkshire with more readiness to visit the very poor, than those who had ample means to reward him for so doing. To benefit the town in which he lived, he was willing to and did make great sacrifices, both to encourage education and in many other ways to improve society.

My father was tall, six feet and well proportioned, with an eye that seemed to read character at once, retiring in his manner, but could indulge in severe satire when he thought he was not honestly dealt with. He had a happy faculty to cheer and encourage in the sick room, and many a nervous, desponding patient rallied and recovered after his encouraging conversation. He was a religious man. His disease was dropsy of the brain and terminated his life Aug. 4, 1829."

Before passing to a further consideration of the society, whose affairs were intimately associated with the Berkshire Medical Institution, we will introduce sketches of three celebrated Williamstown physicians and surgeons:

Doctor *Samuel Porter* of Williamstown, was born in 1756, and came to Williamstown from Northampton. He was a distinguished surgeon, especially in the line of "bone setter." Many apocryphal stories are extant in the community regarding him, but it is known that he went to New York city to reduce a hip dislocation which had baffled the efforts of the faculty, and was successful. He had the patroon of Ranslaeer for a patient, and as a surgeon his fame was wide-spread. He was fearless and probably somewhat reckless. It is related of him that when asked why he never put breechin on his horse

he replied with a big *D*. "that he didn't want any horses that couldn't keep out of the way of his sulky." In driving he was a Jehu. He died Jan. 7, 1822, "after a long and severe illness which he bore with great patience and resignation. He was an active and useful man, and esteemed for his benevolent and social qualities."

Doctor *William Towner* of Williamstown, was from New Fairfield, Ct., He was born in 1756. His first settlement in the county was at Stafford Hill, Cheshire, where he lived a number of years, and was the first physician. It is related he then moved to Williamstown, about the year 1790, at first occupying the place now owned and occupied by Almon Stephens. He afterwards, till the time of his death, occupied the house in Water street, now owned by Mr. Welch, opposite Green River Mills.

He was a man of graceful exterior and pleasing manners; a courtly gentleman of the old school, fond of society, and "readily lent his attention to subjects outside his profession, especially politics, at that time the all-engrossing concern of the day." He labored hard in the establishment of the free school founded by Williams, which afterwards became Williams College, and it is written in the heading of the subscription, "in erecting a house of public worship on the eminence where the old meeting house once stood in Williamstown."

He was commissioned General of Brigade by the state, and is described as a "large, well-proportioned, and not only a grand man, but also a splendid looking man in regimentals."

He was both Representative and Senator, and Justice of the Peace. In the time of Shay's Rebellion he became very obnoxious to Shay's adherents and was shot at by them, some of the buckshot lodging in his boot. Being an old democrat, the federals got doctors to run him out, but when their own families were sick they employed him. He was strictly temperate. In those days it was the custom for the physician to help himself wherever he called from the decanters of the sideboard, but he early became convinced that total abstinence was his only safeguard and he adopted it. He was surgeon's mate in Col. Simons' regiment in Oct. 1781.

At the time of his death he was looked upon as one of those to support Gen. Dearborn and he would have done so had not death frustrated the purpose; his commission arriving after that event.

In medicine his success was wonderful, his fame wide-spread. He practiced as far as Troy, and in 1840 his grand-daughter received marked attention while residing at Waterford, N. Y., from people in high life, by reason of her relationship to Gen. Towner. In fevers his medical aid was sought extensively and he was in them considered the authority.

He was considered in "mad dog bite" as sure to eradicate the poison and prevent the disease, but what method he used the writer never could ascertain, only that calomel was exhibited in some stage of the treatment.

What was strange for those days, he never bled in fevers, nor in typhoid pneumonia. It was while the epidemic of pneumonia in 1812, 13 and 14 was raging through this section that he was seized with the disease when in Pownal. His system was exhausted by his incessant toil, and when his son-in-law, Dr. Samuel Smith, who had been practicing with him only a short time, reached him, he told him on no account to bleed him as it would be his death; but in the absence of Dr. Smith, Dr. Porter, his co-temporary in Williamstown, called upon him, and although his symptoms were more favorable, insisted on bleeding him, after which he failed very rapidly and died. Thus at the age of fifty-eight passed away a physician whose fame extended to the Capitol, and whose early death excited the profoundest regret among all classes. He was physician in the family of Dr. Sabin's father in Pittsfield, and recollects on coming home one day from school, he found his mother leaning against the mantel-piece crying, and on inquiry learned that the beloved Dr. Towner was dead.

He was a Mason and buried with ceremonies of both the Masonic and military orders. But he was mourned by the poor and humble who had shared equally with the rich in his ministrations, and who held him in grateful and tearful remembrance as long as they lived.

He was a churchman and often as possible attended service

in Lanesboro', the then nearest point of worship; but became the warm admirer of Dr. Nott, who occasionally preached in Williamstown. He died insolvent, his property being sunk through Gen. Skinner when state treasurer, as he was one of Skinner's bondsmen.

Although the Masons procured for him a monument it was never erected, and through a shameful neglect nothing marks his grave and it is now unknown where he rests.

Doctor *Samuel Smith* was born in Hadley, Mass., Aug. 13, 1780, and died in Williamstown, where he spent the greater part of his life, June 9, 1852. His father, Joseph Smith, "lost his property in the Revolutionary army," and in consequence the boy Samuel was early bound out to a first cousin, and he relates that he worked through the day on the farm, and then trudged at night nearly to Amherst after the cows. He never went to school but three months. The first book he owned was Capt. Cook's travels, read by the light of pine knots in the winter; when he had read it he sold it and bought another book and in this manner continued his reading and education. He came to Williamstown with Stephen Smith, a cousin, who was a blacksmith, and worked with him until he was eighteen years old, about which time he married Betsey, the second daughter of Gen. William Towner, and went to Manchester, Vt. Not being successful, after a stay of four years, he returned and started a trip-hammer blacksmith shop where Town's mill stood, living in a house opposite. He continued at his trade till his health failed him, when he entered the office of Dr. Towner and commenced the study of medicine. About this time he used to teach singing-schools in town, Lanesboro, and other towns, and one who ever heard him will never forget the purity and sweetness of his singing, or his invariable habit of singing whenever or wherever he rode over the Berkshire hills. In 1809 he entered into partnership with Dr. Towner, and Oct. 30, 1809, twenty-nine years old, the father of six children, he makes his first charge against Robert Lee."

In 1812 Dr. Towner died, and Dr. Smith succeeded to his large practice. His daughter says, "Father was emphatically a self-made man. I can remember when he had few hours of

rest, always riding night and day, yet, he took medical journals and put their thoughts in his head to use when and where his good sense suggested." He could intelligently converse with Profs. Dewey, Kellogg or any one else on medicine, chemistry or botany. The latter study he pursued enthusiastically with Prof. Eaton, and I (the writer) well remember the botanical specimens which were pressed and placed in a book and scientifically labelled; yes, and I don't forget that my morning naps were broken by his calling me to help gather lobelia, elecampane, colt's foot, skunk cabbage, etc. He dwelt very largely in the Vegetable Pharmacopœia, yet he used many other remedies. One of his favorite prescriptions was equal parts of steel filings, aromatic powder and powdered egg shells, and as an antacid and tonic in dyspepsia was excellent. Indeed, his preferred medicine was, in cases of debility, iron in some form, more usually Huxham's tincture; opium was, however, his sheet anchor, and it may justly be claimed that the priority in this section of the use of opium in peritonitis belongs to him.

He was a man of rare powers of observation and judgment, of excellent memory, and in his generalization was usually accurate. He trusted much in the powers of nature, and as a successful and highly esteemed obstetrician with large practice in this department, would have considered some of the teachings and practice of the present day as wildest vagaries.

As a practitioner in fevers, he was a long way ahead of his generation, adopting in the main the practice of the present day. His patients were nourished and their nervous system quieted, and placed in the best condition for the conservative powers of nature to weather the storm. He used in adynamic cases stimulants freely, and discarded cathartics, giving freely of cream of tartar and gum arabic for drink. Of course, being a very decided man in his opinions, when he felt himself in the right, he was often brought into decided antagonism with the disciples of the school of bleeding, calomel and cathartics; but his wise trust in the powers of nature; his use of tonics and sedatives, no doubt, saved many valuable lives, and in many a house and heart to-day his memory is precious.

He was honored by his fellow townsmen, being twice elected

to the Legislature, besides bearing for a long time the commission of Justice of the Peace.

He was a religious man, very active and scrupulous in religious duty. I do not forget the winter daylight prayer-meeting, which I was called up from my bed to go to with him, nor the morning prayer after breakfast, when he often, with his large family, all singers, led the hymn, "Show pity Lord" to the tune Rockingham,—that was verily religious education. His seat was rarely unoccupied on the Sabbath day.

In his family and society he was genial—in his younger days frolicsome, and he loved to hunt, being an excellent marksman, too much so for the proprietors of turkey shoots. He was familiar with all the woods and mountains of Williamstown and vicinity, often visiting Greylock. His daughter, Nancy, was the first female who rode on horseback to the summit.

He had a strong, expressive face, jet black hair, even till his death, and the peculiarity which was noticed by all people of later days, his queue.

He was a man of great activity, a very early riser, and accomplished a great deal while others were asleep and wanted to sleep. He delighted in the best and earliest vegetable garden in town, and as long as he lived excelled, in this respect, all his neighbors.

His longest co-partnership was with Dr. Sabin, ten years, and in this period of his greatest medical activity his circuit of business was more than twenty miles.

He died June, 1852, after a short illness, closing a life full of blessing to his family, the poor, the community at large and his profession.

Doctor *Remembrance Sheldon* was born in 1759. His history is unknown, only that he came to Williamstown, as related, in response to invitation of Shay's partisans in opposition to Dr. Towner, who had incurred their hate. He lived in the house now occupied by Mr. James Waterman, and had a respectable family. He died in 1809.

"Doctor *Snell Babbitt* was born in Norton, Mass., Sept. 9, 1783, and died March 9, 1853, aged sixty-nine and a half years. While a youth, his parents removed to Savoy, County

of Berkshire. During his minority he was assiduously engaged in the labors of the farm. He early manifested a strong desire for the acquisition of knowledge, and under the direction of the Rev. Jeremiah Hallock of Plainfield, he pursued his studies preparatory to the profession of medicine. With Dr. David Cushing of Cheshire, an eminent physician, he studied the profession of medicine. He remained a short time in Cheshire, practicing his profession, but soon removed to Hancock, where a wider field invited his labors. It was during the epidemic of 1812, a *malignant disease* called *Spotted Fever* and Cold Plague, Dr. Babbitt gained a high reputation as a *judicious physician*, and was extensively employed in all the surrounding country. In 1831, Dr. Babbitt located in Adams, where he continued in the practice of medicine nearly twenty-two years,—successful as a general practitioner, and distinguished particularly as an Obstetrician. Though deprived of the advantages now enjoyed by the medical student, such was his thirst for knowledge and desire for improvement, that he employed every leisure moment in study, and was ever posted up in the progress of the science of medicine. He was not merely a reader, but a thinker, a discriminating observer, and a man of sound judgment, and withal, a memory so accurate, that at the bed-side of his patient he could draw from this store-house all that was valuable in the formation of a correct opinion of the case in hand.

Dr. Babbitt was an intelligent and agreeable man in all his associations with his brethren,—cheerful and pleasant at home in his family, and especially so in his intercourse with his fellow citizens,—qualities which made him not only very acceptable in the chamber of the sick, but contributed largely to the comfort and restoration of his patients.

The confidence of his fellow townsmen, in his ability and in his fidelity, was manifested by his repeatedly representing them in the Legislature.

For twenty years he was a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and for several years a counsellor, and was a warm friend to the interests of medical science.

From the first organization of the Congregational Society in

South Adams, he was a warm supporter and constant attendant on public worship, and the latter part of his life made a public profession of his faith, departing this life in the confident hope and trust of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

His disease was an organic affection of the stomach, and its character and termination he early understood, and wisely anticipated the event.

“He was extremely fond of the old poets, and with an excellent memory his quotations from them were frequent and apt. He was courageous in his practice and however urgent the case his energies were made to correspond with his case. Temporal arteries fared hardly when a case of eclampsia occurred, and in a long career, I think he said he never lost but one case.” (Obituary.)

“Died at Adams, Sept 30, 1814, of typhus, Doctor *David Cushing*, aged forty-seven. He was a kind and indulgent husband, father and friend; no eulogy could be made so lasting as the monument already erected in the bosoms of his acquaintance. He had educated many young men in his office.”

“Died at Adams, very suddenly, Oct. 12, 1821, Doctor *Liscom Phillips*, aged forty-four. He possessed by nature a strong, investigating mind, which was cultivated with more than ordinary care in ordinary and scientific acquirements. He possessed those noble qualities of soul which eminently fitted him for the various relations of husband, father, neighbor and friend. As a physician, his ride was extensive, and he possessed the unbounded confidence of his patients.”

“Doctor *Robert Cutler Robinson* of Adams, born 1784; died in 1846, aged sixty-two, having practiced medicine forty years in the north part of the county and the adjoining county of Hampshire. He studied his profession under the direction of the distinguished Dr. Peter Bryant of Cummington, whose reputation for scientific and professional attainment is widely known. Dr. Robinson was a self-educated man, and a writer of considerable eminence, as evidenced by his essays and public addresses on various subjects. With talents of a high order, he might have excelled as an orator, if his course had been in

that direction. In the sphere in which he labored he was useful and respected. (Address, Greeley, page 19.)”

“Doctor *Beriah Bishop* of Richmond, born 1778, son of the Hon. Nathaniel Bishop, died 1805, aged twenty-seven.

His youth impaired by too severe exertion caused him to turn his attention to science. His medical education was pursued under Dr. Burghardt of Richmond, and Dr. Smith of Hanover, N. H. He entered business in 1803, in partnership with Dr. Burghardt. Highly improved with medical learning, by assiduous attention to business and by his prudent, amiable and exemplary deportment, he rapidly extended his practice. But he fell a victim to consumption, and was buried from the house of Judge Bishop.”

“Doctor *Mason Brown* was born in Cheshire, in 1783. He was educated in the common schools, but studied medicine with Dr. Towner of Williamstown. He was lame, and not of strong constitution. His little office long stood on the village green, near the church. He practiced in the winter in Cheshire, but his summers were spent in Saratoga, where his services were in great repute. He made a famous pill, which, in connection with the Spring water, made him famous there, and added materially to his income.

“He never married; was of a genial, kind nature, and was always surrounded by a bevy of village children.”

“A little anecdote is related of his encounter with ‘Uncle’ Moses Wolcott, who for many years, kept the only inn in the village. Meeting Mr. W. one morning he jokingly said, ‘Well, Mr. Wolcott, we are going to have a new tavern on the hill, so we can have two.’ ‘Yes! yes!’ said the testy old man, ‘and we are going to have a new doctor in town, so we can have one.’” (Correspondence.)

Dr. Brown, on returning from Saratoga, made his stopping-place at his sister’s, Mrs. Stephen Hosford, and there, in 1836, he died.

“The first effectual effort in the direction of a Medical School was made in 1851, when Oliver I. Root, returning from a course of lectures in Castleton, Vt.,—Dr. J. P. Batchelder, a professor in that institution, having become dissatisfied with it,

—sent word by him to Dr. H. H. Childs that the favorable moment had arrived to establish a new school at Pittsfield. Dr. C. seized the hint with avidity and immediately took steps to avail himself of it.” Hist. of Pittsfield, Vol. 2, Chap. XVII.

In May '22, the subject of a medical institution was introduced to the society by Dr. Childs, and favorably entertained. A committee was chosen by the society to petition the Legislature for an act of incorporation and a grant of money. Drs. Childs, Burbank and Collins was the committee and they also addressed the parent society, requesting its aid and co-operation in the proposed measure. But for some reason the parent society turned the cold shoulder and opposed the measure. But the impetuosity of Dr. Childs knew no defeat, and the charter was granted January 4, 1823, and a course of lectures was announced for September.

Theory and Practice,	-	-	-	Dr. H. H. Childs.
Anatomy and Physiology,	-	-	-	Dr. J. V. C. Smith.
Surgery,	-	-	-	Dr. J. P. Batchelder.
Obstetrics and Materia Medica,	-	-	-	Dr. Asa Burbank.
Chemistry and Botany,	-	-	-	Dr. Chester Dewey.

From this it appears, as there were three Professors from the Society, how intimate the relations were between the society and the institution. But further, the society appointed a committee of “inspection” to investigate the concerns of the institution, and their report in December 23, says, “The institution, we are happy to state, promises much utility to the medical profession to the country and to the world. About eighty students have attended the course; above five hundred lectures have been delivered. The funds of the institution are low; it needed patronage, and was worthy of it. And should the patronage it needed be granted it must rise to eminence and great usefulness.” And the society united with the institution in petitioning for an endowment which was granted in 1824, in payments of \$1000 yearly for five years. No doubt the income was meagre.

The institution was managed by a board of trustees of which Drs. Perry and Tyler were chosen as members from the society. There were also annually two delegates chosen to attend the

examination of the students for the degree of M. D., which were conferred upon its alumni by the president of Williams College till 1837, when the degrees were conferred by the president of the institution.

The first President of the Berkshire Medical Institution was Doctor *Josiah Goodhue*, born at Dunstable, Mass., Jan. 17, 1759. He commenced his medical pupilage with Dr. Kittredge of Fakesbury, and at the end of two years returned to his parents in Putney, Vt., where he commenced practice, when about twenty years old. Notwithstanding the meagreness of his preliminary education, he rapidly gained in favor, as well as knowledge. Students in numbers came to him and he taught some who became distinguished. Nathan Smith was one of his pupils. In the year 1800, he received from Dartmouth College the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine.

In 1816, he located in Hadley, Mass., and in 1823 was appointed by the trustees President of the Berkshire Medical Institution. He had the interests of the institution very much in heart, and says, "While I have the honor to preside in this Institution, it shall be the business of my declining years to promote its interests in every way in my power."

He had an extensive practice in Operative Surgery, and has stated that, so far as he knew, *he was the first to amputate at the shoulder joint of any man in New England.*

He was extremely temperate in his manner of living.

"In his manner, Dr. Goodhue was a pattern of urbanity and gentility. In his appearance and dress he was perfectly neat. He commanded the respect and esteem of all who knew him. In his department he was affable and polite to his equals and inferiors; his conversational talents were of such an order as ever to attract attention, and he was always listened to with great interest and respect." Williams' Biog.

He died in 1829, at the house of Dr. Twitchell.

"July 26, 1823. VOTED.—That Prof. Dewey be appointed a committee to confer with the Trustees of Williams College for the loan of the chemical and philosophical apparatus, for the use of the Institution during the ensuing course of lectures.

J. B. BATCHELDER, *Sec.*"

There is no record of the loan, but I presume it was loaned.

In 1824 there crops out the jealousy towards Harvard, which was in consequence, no doubt, of the opposition met with to the establishment of the Institution, and which lasted many years, and was freely expressed by Dr. Childs. The vote was that the degree of M. D. conferred upon the graduate of the Berkshire Medical Institution, through the authority of Williams College, should "Entitle its possessor to all the rights, privileges and immunities granted to graduates of Harvard."

In this year the Trustees bought the "Berkshire Hotel," where Dr. Sabin's father lived, and anticipated the grant of the state to the amount of \$3,000. And Joseph Shearer presents a fine fat ox for the benefit of the Institution. A committee was appointed to see what should be done with the ox; they report "that the ox be sold to the best advantage, and the avails be distributed in premiums next year. Called the Joseph Shearer fund."

No doubt the income was meagre.

How otherwise would Joseph Shearer have made to the Institution the present of "a fine fat ox." But I credit the whole (caboodle?) of them with lunacy. Would you believe it? Actually, they appointed a committee to sit on that ox and see what should be done with it. Anybody out a lunatic asylum would say, make a big barbecue, invite all the hostile Indians from the parent society and Harvard hall and Williams College and the Legislature, then wash the tenderloin down with old Jamaica. Do you think, with the inner man red hot with beef and Jamaica, they wouldn't have come down handsome? Why! the Faculty could have marched in procession with Childs at the head waving his banner of general principles, Smith shouldering a huge thigh bone, Batchelder with his carving knife, Burbank with his obstetric forceps and Dewey as rear guard with a staff of golden rod trampling over all opposition to fatness and renown. They wouldn't have been begging Williams College for old chemical and philosophical traps, not a bit of it. But pity 'tis, 'tis true, this daft committee sitting on the fat ox, voted to sell it and make Shearer hero.

There was in 1828, some trouble growing out of the representations of Dr. Batchelder, (who was then secretary) respecting the Institution. It was a repetition of what occurred at Woodstock. March 20, 1828, there was an examination of Dr. Batchelder, on the charge that he tried to injure the reputation of the school. "VOTED.—That in the opinion of the Trustees it is not for the interest of the Institution to continue Dr. B. as a professor in the same."

Near this time Dr. O. S. Root was appointed Professor of Pharmacy, Materia Medica and Medical Chemistry.

"Doctor *Oliver Sackett Root* was born in Pittsfield, July 1st, 1799. He was a delicate child, fond of his books, and showed early unusual powers of observation. His academic education was at Lenox and Westfield. He studied medicine with Dr. H. H. Childs, and graduated at the Berkshire Medical Institution in 1824. In 1828, was appointed Professor, and was always afterwards one of the Trustees."

"He was an accomplished botanist and his decision was often appealed to in any disputed question on that subject. Always deeply interested in public education, he was nearly thirty years a member of the School Committee, and for many years its chairman. It was greatly owing to his influence and exertions that the beautiful site of the Pittsfield Cemetery was chosen. He was the first to discover its natural advantages and capabilities, and year after year urged the town its purchase until at last it was decided upon."

"A public spirited man he took deep interest in the affairs of the town. He took strong ground as an anti-slavery and temperance advocate. He spent the summer of '59 abroad. During the war full of the patriotic zeal which had animated his grandfather in the old struggle for liberty,—too old to be accepted as surgeon—in '64 he offered his services to and was accepted by the United States Christian Commission, and labored zealously and satisfactorily in the hospitals of City Point and Petersburg. He was a great favorite with the Berkshire boys. His exposure in camp life was too great, and he never fully recovered from it. He had remarkable powers of endurance, and continued his practice to the last however,

never refusing to go out to see a patient, even in the stormiest night."

"He was an earnest, consistent Christian, an active member of the Congregational church, and often in the absence of a clergyman, his prayers and ministrations by the bedside of the sick and dying were most welcome and comforting."

He died of pneumonia, Oct. 22, 1870, and his funeral sermon was preached by President Hopkins to a great concourse of children of the schools and townspeople.

Dr. Root was Secretary of the Institution till its close. The Berkshire Medical Society, after his death, passed this resolution: "*Resolved*.—That we remember with gratitude his untiring industry, his rigid discipline, his brilliant medical essays, his thorough medical education, and above all, his love to God. The sick and helpless poor have been deprived of a kind and faithful friend and medical adviser." Correspondence.

In December, 1836, a petition was sent to the Legislature for an alteration of its charter, so that the Institution would have the power to confer its own degrees, and in '37 the act passed. They also petitioned for a grant of \$10,000.

Dr. Goodhue was succeeded by Dr. Zadock Howe Bellerica, who resigned in 1837, when the connection between Williams College and the Institution was dissolved and the Institution conferred its own degrees, and in '38 Dr. H. H. Childs was chosen its President.

"Doctor *Henry Halsey Childs* of Pittsfield, was born at the Child's homestead on Jubilee Hill, June 7, 1783. As a youth he was both noble hearted and noble minded. He graduated at Williams College in 1802. At that time all the Faculty and Trustees but one were Federalists, and his commencement oration, which was submitted to the President for approval, was full of the rankest Jeffersonian Democracy. The utterance of what was considered heresy was forbidden and some harmless and probably glittering generalities substituted. But when it came his turn to speak out leaped the pestilent democracy. The President tried to stop him, but he could not be silenced; he went on to the end amid mingled hisses and applause."

And this typified what the young man was to be. He stud-

ied medicine with his father, and commenced and carried on practice with him as long as his father lived. They introduced vaccination in spite of opposition, as the father had inoculation. In 1822, May, at a medical meeting, and the first after a long interval, Dr. Childs introduced the subject of a Medical College, urging it with his usual ardor, and that originated the Berkshire Medical College. From the time of its establishment he was its life and soul, and it died with him.

His labors and sacrifices for the Berkshire Medical College, and the great good to this town and county and state and country coming from it, directly connected with the personality of this man, cannot be estimated; it suffices to say they were very great.

He had a large medical practice and for many years was a member of the Faculty of the medical colleges at Woodstock, Vt., and Willoughby and Columbus, Ohio.

His labors in the medical line were sufficient to employ all the time of an ordinary man, still he found time for the activities of a zealous and uncompromising democrat. And in this direction he wielded great influence, for he was elected to represent the town in the Legislatures of 1816 and 1827, and the Constitutional Convention of 1820; to the State Senate of 1837, and as Lieut. Governor in 1843.

In the Constitutional Convention, in advocating his motion to amend Article 3, in Bill of Rights, he particularly distinguished himself as the champion of the voluntary system in the support of public worship.

Dr. Childs, in motion to amend Article 3, in Bill of Rights, "As the happiness of a people and the good order and preservation of civil government essentially depend upon piety, religion and morality, and as these cannot be generally diffused through a community but by the institution of the public worship of God, and as it is the inalienable right of every man to render that worship in the mode most consistent with the dictates of his own conscience, etc."

One of his opponents was Webster, and Childs was defeated, but Webster afterwards admitted that he was wrong and that Dr. Childs was right.

But with all his enthusiasm and ardor in his pursuits, Dr. Childs was a Christian gentleman. He was tender of the feelings and reputation of others. This was manifest in his dealings with those who were examined for the degree of M. D.

In 1863 Dr. Childs resigned. Resolutions of the Trustees of Berkshire Medical Institution:—"That the resignation of Dr. Childs requires from us more than a passing notice. For more than forty years he has been the active head of the Berkshire Medical Institution, his usefulness having extended to a period almost unprecedented. During these years, by his energy and zeal, he has achieved a wide-spread reputation as a medical man; and, by his courtesy of manner and kindness of heart, a no less deserved name of a Christian gentleman. He has ever maintained a high standard of medical honor, and his pupils must forget or ignore his teachings before they can stoop to anything base or ignoble. With quick appreciation of merit, however modest, and ever ready with a timely word of needed encouragement, his pupils learned to love him, and thousands throughout the length and breadth of the land look back to him as to a foster father. While we regret the infirmities which compel the retirement of our venerable President from the active duties of instruction, we earnestly hope that the interests of the Institution, which is so identified with his life and name, may not abate, and that he may long be spared to speak words of cheer to the new generation of students and give the benefit of his advice and counsel to the Faculty and Trustees."

He was liberal and generous. As a Christian, he was in earnest. In 1821 he became a member of the First Congregational church, and as deacon and Sabbath-school scholar and President of the Berkshire Bible Society, he exemplified the grace, tenderness and power of Christianity. He was gentle, but strong; tender, yet true hearted; zealous, yet with meekness; having a strong will, yet under the dominion of a will superior to his own, with aspirations and affection which rested, not upon those near him, but reached forth as far as the mission of him whom he so faithfully served.

It was sad, that desiring it so much, he did not in his last

days rest his eyes on the dear old hills of Berkshire, and commune with them; and with the deep blue arch studded with the stars that had, through the long lonely night rides, been to him an inspiration, filling him with trust and hope.

He died in Boston, with his daughter, March, 1868, in the eighty-fifth year of his age.

In 1850 the Medical building was burned. The committee selected the site offered by Henry Colt, Esq., at the foot of South street, and in 1852 sold the old boarding house, thus terminating their connection with a place they had occupied for thirty years.

The new building was of pressed brick outside, well arranged and commodious.

Dr. Gilman Kimball, Prof. of Surgery; Dr. Alonzo Clark, Prof. of General and Special Pathology; Dr. Benjamin R. Palmer, Prof. of Anatomy, were added to the Faculty in 1843.

Dr. Timothy Childs was elected Secretary and Trustee in 1848. In '63, Dr. H. H. Childs was succeeded by Dr. W. W. Seymour of Troy. Dr. William W. Green was Prof. of Surgery; Dr. R. C. Stiles, of Pathology; Dr. A. B. Palmer, of Practice of Medicine; Dr. P. Chadbourne, of Chemistry and Natural History; Dr. Earle, of Diseases of the Nervous System; Dr. T. Childs, of Military Surgery; Dr. Ford, of Physiology.

But the war was disastrous to the country medical schools; here, as elsewhere, and, with other causes added, resulted in a ruinous decrease of students. In 1866 only forty-one attended, in 1867, only thirty-three. The last course of lectures was delivered in 1867, and Dr. F. K. Paddock, the last appointed professor, received his appointment as Professor of Urinology and Venereal Diseases in 1867.

In 1870 the building was sold to Pittsfield, and April 29, 1871, Dr. C. A. Mills of this Society performed the last funeral rites.

Thus came to an end the Berkshire Medical Institution which was the offspring of this Society, which had carefully received attention for forty-four years, and had graduated 1,120 students.

The prophecy that "it would be of much utility to the medical profession, to the country and to the world" was abundantly verified.

"VOTED.—That Dr. Daniel Collins deliver the dissertation at the next semi-annual meeting."

"Doctor *Daniel Collins* was born in Lenox, Dec. 19, 1774. The second of three brother physicians—preparing for college at the Academy in Lenox and graduating at Williams College in 1800; soon after commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Lewis; completed his professional studies and began the practice of medicine with his older brother, Luke, at Louisville, Kentucky. This brother was an earlier graduate of Williams and student of Dr. Lewis.

Dr. Collins' residence in Kentucky gave him an experience in the treatment of febrile diseases that he would not ordinarily have had, and enabled him to treat successfully a large number of cases during an unusual prevalence of fever in this vicinity, at the time of his return, and gave him a local reputation that he ever after retained. Fond of study and scientific investigation, he was well acquainted with the theory and practice of his profession, possessing a retentive memory and having for those days a large and well selected general library, which he thoroughly read. He was entertaining and instructive in conversation, and took much pleasure in sharing with others any information he acquired; and, had ambition impelled him might have obtained celebrity. He was fond of military drill and parade, marched to Boston commanding a company from this town in 1812, and held the rank of colonel in our militia service. Of a commanding presence, possessing many noble and generous qualities, he had the confidence and good will of those under his command.

After his sojourn of a couple of years or so in Kentucky, he returned to Lenox, where he resided until his death, which occurred March 9, 1847." (J. G. Stanly, letter.)

Dr. Collins, in his youth, was called by the ladies a very handsome man. He was an excellent scholar and fine linguist. He stood very high in the esteem of his medical brethren.

Keen in observation, original in reasoning, independent in his judgment; his counsel was sought after in difficult cases.

He stood very high in the Society, being elected President, besides filling honorable and responsible positions. (Correspondence.)

“Doctor *William H. Tyler* was born in Lanesborough, May 18, 1780. He worked upon his father’s farm until eighteen years of age. Studied with Dr. Silas Hamilton, in Saratoga, one year. Continued them with Dr. Joseph Jarvis of Lanesborough, and completed them with Dr. Asa Burbank of the same town, occupying about three and one-half years. “And then,” he says, “I was privileged with a full course of medical lectures in Columbia College, New York. The Marine Hospital was at hand; bones, muscles, arteries and veins were no longer presented to the imagination only, I could examine them with my eye and the dissecting knife. Drs. Post, Rodgers, Stringham, Hosack and Hammersly were the professors.” At that time a spirited discussion was going on on contagion and non-contagion of Yellow fever.

“Dr. Tyler commenced practice in Lanesborough in 1815, and soon had an extensive ride. He practiced among the best families in and out of town, and the poor he never neglected whether there was prospect of remuneration or not. He was associated with the best medical men in the county, among them Drs. Timothy Childs, H. H. Childs, Delamater, Batchelder and Towner. He was an honored member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, Censor, Councillor and President of the Berkshire Medical Society, and always enjoyed to a high degree the confidence and esteem of his medical brethren.” In 1815, 20, 31 and 35 he represented his town in Legislature and Congressional Convention with usefulness and great credit to himself.

Dr. Tyler practiced thirty-four years in Lanesborough, and the intimate friendship with Gov. G. N. Briggs terminated only with his death.

In a letter to him March 10, 1856, he says, “Dear Sir, I was very much gratified on the reception of a staff marked ‘G. N. Briggs to W. H. Tyler.’ It is long enough, strong enough,

large enough and handsome enough, and as good for aught I know as Jacob's when he passed over the Jordan, or when he leaned upon the head of it and worshipped and blessed the sons of Joseph."

He thus writes, "The day my limb was amputated I asked the Lord if there might be fifteen years added to my earthly existence. He has added that and more, and I ought to say in humble submission, the Lord's will be done. I think I have tried to do good in my day and generation to my fellows, my friends and my enemies, but the world is about ready to spare me now and and I want to be ready to go when required."

"I have had an anxious, arduous and laborious life, and have not been more than one-half remunerated for it. I have tried to be an honor to the medical profession, and obtain honor and a good reputation; but very many of the faculty have dishonored themselves by dishonest and intriguing efforts to obtain business. Quackery and pretension to skill have supplanted and broken down many who were worthy of the best public patronage."

"I have continued my medical reading even until now (eighty years old). At the present day (1856) a great assortment of doctors has sprung into existence, and the human family are humbugged and cheated,—I wish they knew how much—for, notwithstanding, I have spent a long life in reading and investigating this abstruse science, my lesson is half unlearned."

Dr. Tyler was a very devout, thoughtful Christian. He philosophises, "Who is I? I think I is a sentient spirit, an immortal soul, that will know and be known by other spirits or souls when separated from the body. God is a spirit. Spirits must have some property in common. What is it? Do spirits have any matter in their composition?"

These extracts serve to show that Dr. Tyler was a constant reader, and conscientious practitioner, regardful, not alone of his patients, but of his profession as well.

I remember him with his furrowed face and short bushy hair, and kindness of manner, and his carefulness in making up his opinion, and his gentleness with his junior brethren.

To crown all, he was an excellent father and neighbor and citizen, because he was a sincere Christian.

As Paul said, "By the grace of God I am what I am," so said Dr. Tyler; and died in the faith Dec. 6th, aged eighty-eight and one-half years.

Doctor *Abel Kittredge* was born in Tewksbury, Mass., in 1773, settled as a physician in the town of Hinsdale in 1801. He was the first and only physician in the town for twenty-five years, and had a large practice there and surrounding towns. He was commissioned as surgeon's mate in one of the Massachusetts regiments in 1812, by Gov. Caleb Strong. He died in 1847, aged seventy-four years. He was brother of Dr. William Kittredge, then settled in Pittsfield.

"In 1827, a disease in his eyes, called 'Western Sore Eyes,' almost entirely destroyed his sight for several years, obliging him to abandon the practice of his profession. He afterwards was much interested in agriculture, being one of the largest farmers in the town."

"In 1797 he married Miss Eunice Chamberlain of Dalton, and had four sons and six daughters. He had a noble, generous nature, full of kindness and aid to the suffering and needy, and was foremost in supporting education, good moral and religious institutions in the town." Correspondence.

The following anecdote of Dr. Abel Kittredge is told by Mr. F.:—

"When quite a young man he (Mr. F.) bought some sheep which he sold within a few days at a profit of one hundred dollars. Soon after the doctor meeting him, said, "Well, Mr. F., I hear you have made a hundred dollars within four days." Mr. F. admitted that he had. "Young man," said the doctor, "you will find that the dearest hundred dollars you ever had," which the sequel shows was doubted, as he made a second purchase and gained another profit. Buying the third time, he took the sheep to New York and this time lost all he had gained. Mr. F. was forced to acknowledge that the doctor was right. It exemplified his belief in small economies and moderate profits as the best foundations for a young man's prosperity; along with that first requisite in all dealings—integrity.

Dr. Kittredge was a satisfactory physician to most people in his region. He was respected and public-spirited. Though for some years before his death he had discontinued practice, he was still keenly interested in public affairs."

Doctor *Charles Worthington* was born Aug. 27, 1778, and died May 23, 1840.

There is no history (medical) except that gleaned from the records of the Society.

"VOTED.—That Charles Worthington be Treasurer and Librarian." He was on the committee of inspection to investigate the concerns of the Medical Institute.

"VOTED.—That Dr. Charles Worthington be appointed to deliver a dissertation at the next annual meeting." He was on the committee "to take into consideration the subject of our annual assessments and initiation fees." This was a long standing and grievous matter with the parent Society.

In 1830 he was elected Vice-president of the Society.

These different records show that he stood very high in the esteem and confidence of his medical brethren.

"Doctor *Robert Worthington* of Lenox, was born Sept. 29, 1791, and died August, 1856.

He was well known as a physician, having long resided in the county. He was for a number of years secretary of the Berkshire Medical Society, and was honored and esteemed, as the records of the Society show, by his medical brethren. But not only in the walks of professional life was he well known, but in the toilsome though honorable and useful walks of Christian benevolence. He was a member of the Congregational church in Lenox, and one on whom much is imposed and sustained with ability and constancy. He was for many years Treasurer of the Berkshire Bible Society, and by that Society made a Life Director in the American Bible Society. He was Secretary of the County Seamen's Friend Society, and an earnest friend of every measure of popular reform. His Christian faith was vital, energetic, active, and hence we must believe the true faith that works by love. His memory will always be cherished with honor.

They were sons of Capt. Daniel and Mrs. Lois (Foote)

Worthington, and were born in Colchester, Conn. The family removed to Lenox probably in the early part of this century, and there the parents and the two sons above named died." Correspondence.

"Doctor *John M. Brewster* was born Oct. 22, 1789 in Becket, Mass.

His early education was at the Lenox Academy while Mr. Gleason was principal. He commenced the study of medicine under the instruction of his father; attended a course of lectures in New Haven in 1810, and graduated at the Medical School in Boston under Dr. Jackson, in 1812; reached home the very day his father was brought home dead of apoplexy, and commenced immediately the practice of medicine at his native place where he remained till 1821 when he removed to Lenox, and was a successful physician in that and neighboring towns for sixteen years. He was Town Clerk there two years.

In April, 1837, he removed to Pittsfield, purchased the old homestead of Gen. Willis and continued his profession with zeal, fidelity and success for thirty years, making in all fifty-five years of continuous practice.

"His physical constitution was of the most robust kind. Till after he was seventy years of age he would mount his horse with no other help than the stirrups and ride with grace and fleetness.

The old Brewster homestead is one of the historic landmarks, inasmuch as it has the credit of having been a station of the underground railroad for fugitives from the South on their way to Canada and freedom.

Dr. Brewster welcomed to his home Gerritt Smith, Elihu Burritt, Henry Wilson and many of the early anti-slavery advocates. The friendship that existed between himself and the Hon. Charles Sumner (of glorious memory) was constant and unabated to the close of life."

He was an anti-slaver man when it cost something to be one—as far back as when James G. Birney was candidate for President.

Studious of social propriety and civil obligations, he firmly and conscientiously took his chances on the side of manhood

and right and calmly and quietly awaited the result." Correspondence.

Need it be said that his grand conduct as husband, father, neighbor, citizen and physician was the outcome of a character which was born of Jesus of Nazareth.

He died May 3, 1869, aged eighty years.

"Doctor *Robert Campbell*, son of David Campbell, the elder, was born at Pittsfield, 1796; graduated at the Berkshire Medical College, 1822, having commenced his studies before the foundation of that institution. No Pittsfield man, of his generation at least, excelled him in mental power or liberal culture. The variety of the subjects of which he acquired accurate and practical knowledge was remarkable. His skill in his profession was widely recognized although he abandoned it in the prime of his life. His thirst for study and experiment was ardent; he possessed extreme conscientiousness, displayed not only in business integrity, but in all the affairs of life." (History of Pittsfield.)

"Doctor *Royal Fowler* of Stockbridge, took the place of Dr. Jones. He was born 1786, and a native of Pittsfield. He practiced at first in Barrington. He was a peculiarly careful physician and much confided in by his patients."

He was a member of the Berkshire Medical Society and from the records I gather that he was highly esteemed and confided in by his fellow members, being placed often in positions of responsibility, and his record as a citizen and physician is irreproachable.

"He was a Christian and died in great peace Sept. 20, 1849, at the age of sixty-three."

We resume the meetings of the Society.

In 1827 the Society meetings revolved around the court in Lenox and the cattle show in Pittsfield.

In '39 we meet a vote as follows: "That certain resolutions upon the subject of intemperance this day presented, after being revised by the president and secretary, be adopted and printed in the county newspapers, signed by the president and secretary. The president was Dr. Perry of Stockbridge, and as in 1837, he established by his energetic efforts at that place

an auxiliary temperance society, at that time when it was exceedingly unpopular to advocate that question, we have no doubt but these resolutions were from him. Dr. Hawks of North Adams, says of 1829, "At that time New England was drenched with rum and cider brandy." Another writer says, "The habits of intemperance, thriftlessness and dissipation generally which existed in the years immediately following the Revolution still continued." We glory then in the heroism of a member of our Society, who, at that time, gave such a sharp rebuke to the habit to which, no doubt, some of his medical brethren were subject; and at the same time, by its record, placing the Society on the side of temperance. From '34 to '37 there is no record of meeting. We search in vain for the wherefore except the conjecture of dissatisfaction on the relation of the district to the parent Society.

In '29 a committee was appointed to take into consideration the subject of "our annual assessments and initiation fees, and report the best or most proper course to be pursued by the Society to obtain relief."

Jan. 30, the committee reported and it was voted, "That that part of the report advising a separation from the parent Society be rejected."

May 31, "That a committee be appointed to consider the subject matter of the petition of the physicians from this county, and also the subject of difference between the fellows of this county and the parent Society."

"That this committee be instructed to contend for or insist upon the abandonment of the whole annual assessment to this Society."

Next meeting, '32, this vote was amended so that the instruction was to compromise for the payment of one dollar per annum of the assessment to the parent Society. At the next meeting the contest continued in a somewhat varied form.

The meetings of October and December must have been very exciting and condemnatory of the parent Society. Votes were passed, then rescinded, and it is evident that these meetings must have been very wearying to the flesh.

In '33 this subject is continued in a report which it is stated

that after "an investigation, this district Society is entitled to the sum of \$81.53, and our treasurer is directed to retain in his hands said sum."

There is no record of meeting again till 1837, an interim of four years. In '37 a spasmodic effort was made for a revival, but there was only one meeting. This was a time of great financial depression and ruin, and was no doubt the efficient reason for the discontinuance of the meetings.

In looking back through this period we are impressed with the fact that the profession is standing on a higher plane than during that preceding. The rules are more dignified and elastic. They concede more to individual honor. Command is succeeded by an appeal to the better and higher nature. The business complications and wranglings with the parent Society and the interests of the Medical Institution occupy much of the time to the exclusion of professional matters, probably to the disgust of some members, still, there are many carefully prepared papers and many interesting cases brought to the thought of the Society, with a finer and richer enthusiasm than before.

In 1842 there was a reorganization. The Society starts again with nearly the same leaders.

Of the eighty-five names upon the record sheet of 1842, all are dead or removed but eight.

There were two yearly meetings, one at Lenox and one at Pittsfield. This arrangement held till '62, when the meetings were held in Pittsfield. There was no special interest for ten years and the old troubles with the parent Society were still in existence.

We note the resolutions upon Dr. Royal Fowler by Dr. R. Worthington, June, 1850: "Whereas, God in his righteous providence, has removed by death Dr. Royal Fowler, a beloved and faithful fellow laborer in the medical profession, and recently President of this Society, thus depriving us of the presence and counsel of one who was usually "at his post" at the regular meetings of this Society, Therefore, Resolved, That while we would humbly and submissively feel and acknowledge the hand of God in this event we enter upon the records this

testimonial of our estimation of his character and usefulness as a scientific and successful practitioner of medicine, a faithful and devoted friend to the interests and prosperity of the medical profession, and above all would we gratefully acknowledge the goodness of the 'Great Physician,' that in addition to the above traits of character, he possessed and was enabled to exemplify the character of a meek and humble follower of the Saviour. And we would accompany this testimonial with the sincere aspiration that we may all, having faithfully discharged our individual and relative duties be prepared like him to depart in peace." No one could desire a better testimonial. It testifies to eminence in the profession, to faithfulness in his obligations to his medical brethren, to a fulness and sweetness of character which made his life an inspiration. But rarely does the resolution equally reveal the character of the writer. This is a transparency, revealing behind it a firm, self-reliant Christian physician, one who could enter upon a journal the exuberant joy in the character of his friend, and a desire for conformation to his high standard of life.

In 1852 we notice that Dr. A. Williams reported a case of Peritonitis treated successfully with large doses of opium. Dr. Clark and Dr. Childs have both been credited with the origination of this manner of treating Peritonitis.

This claim, if it be a claim, we do not think can be substantiated. Years before, this treatment was practiced by Dr. Smith of Williamstown. It was not original with him. It is probable that in Berkshire, Dr. Towner would be found the one who was the rescuer, if not originator of this practice, and that it was continued in a large degree by Dr. Smith.

In the early part of 1854 we have two fine addresses. One from Dr. Babbitt on Tubercular Diseases, "rich in facts and replete with sound medical principles for which able addresses the Society voted thanks. One from Dr. George S. Lyman, setting forth the true mission of our profession replete with wholesome sentiments of great literary merit." In 1854, Dr. White, "then President, interested the Society for half an hour with a condensed history of his life. He intimated that he had been laboring under disease of the heart from early life

which had been a source of serious embarrassment during his professional career. In '55 a vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. White for his faithfulness and courtesy as President of this Society.

'58 marks a new departure in the history of this Society. The story is this. At a meeting in July remarks were made by Dr. Collins, criticizing the manner of conducting the meetings, asking for more method and suggesting that "the president make an individual call upon the fellows to relate anything of interest which has occurred in the practice of each since the last meeting, and that ten minutes be allowed each fellow for recital." After dinner he made some very spirited and caustic remarks relative to the inefficiency of the Society.

The brethren mutually pledged themselves to be more mindful of the future meetings of the Society.

In November following, it was voted, though the journal does not state that the motion was made by Dr. Collins, that there be monthly meetings and except the annual meeting at Lenox, be held in Pittsfield.

What was impossible in the beginning was possible now, whatever a few years before was impracticable was practicable now.

The meetings became fully attended and very interesting.

About June, '59, Dr. Jackson initiated the custom of giving a dinner at the monthly meeting. They are styled, in the Journal, as "sumptuous," "elegant," etc.

Those of us who partook of them will bear witness that the adjectives descriptive were none too strong.

We all know that Dr. Sabin was a good feeder, and appreciated a good dinner. Now this motion of his at the Jackson dinner testifies not only to the dinner but to himself as entirely satisfied therewith: "I move, Mr. President, that the thanks of the Society be tendered to Dr. Jackson for the sumptuous entertainment he has furnished. Also, to Mr. Howland for the efficient manner in which he has executed the order of Dr. Jackson. Carried unanimously."

The dinner speeches were good and productive in cementing friendship and good will.

The Great Barrington entertainments of Dr. Collins were always "swell," that of '60 especially; nearly fifty medical men were present. Many letters were read; speeches were fired off. The scribe was evidently deeply stirred, he writes: "Evening shadows were gathering about us (four hours having been spent around the cheerful and hospitable table) and the guests left the hall to be charmed by the music of Curtis cornet band. In a social view this probably was the most delightful meeting the Society ever held." Much is certainly owing to Dr. Collins for his zeal in behalf of the Society; his earnest endeavor to make it practical and scientific. His death was the loss of a true and sterling friend.

Certainly the meetings were never more vigorous than during the ten years from '52 to '62. The meetings were very fully attended; the cases reported interesting and freely and fully discussed, and were so reported upon the journal that they are of great value.

The reports of Drs. Stiles and Cady are especially excellent and worthy of praise. The interest seemed at almost fever heat.

The day of the February meeting in '61, the storm was so severe that the meeting was held at the Berkshire Hotel, and seventeen members were present. The active members at that time were: Drs. H. H. and T. Childs, Collins, Lucas, Brewster, Lawrence, Williams, Cady, Meacham, Deming, Smith, of Pittsfield; Duncan, Miller, Holmes, Manning, Kittredge, Streeter, DeWolf, Root and Starkweather. Of this number only one remains (1890.)

The presidents during this time, Drs. Sabin, White, H. H. Childs, Ferre, Timothy Childs and Clarkson Collins are all dead. Dr. Timothy Childs was one of the finest presidents this Society ever had. Prompt in his decisions, thoroughly versed in parliamentary practice, cool, clear-headed, he kept the Society always at their work.

In one of the exciting and acrimonious discussions in the amphitheatre of the college building he impressed me as one of the best presiding officers I ever knew.

He was also a fine surgeon. He had an originally fine mind,

and a college education with abundant opportunity, had ripened him into a bold and skillful surgeon. He was a fluent and easy lecturer. He kept himself posted on and abreast of all improved methods, and his sad and untimely death brought deep sorrow to a host of friends.

Once when operating before the Society, his patient, a little boy whose deformed arm he was trying to remedy while under an anæsthetic, ceased to breathe. So did we all. But the energetic and tireless efforts in artificial respiration were not remitted till the spirit which seemed to have been launched into the boundless ocean was brought back from the land of shadows to life and light.

The last annual meeting at Lenox was in '62. The removal of the court house in making Pittsfield the shire town removed all meetings to Pittsfield, except when the Society accepted special invitations from fellows to meet with them, and those at Great Barrington, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Lee, North and South Adams and Williamstown, were occasions of great pleasure as well as profit.

About '60 the Society received the addition of Drs. Stiles, Thayer and Green.

Dr. Green was at first Professor of Materia Medica, then to that was added military surgery. Still later principles and practice of surgery, and clinical surgery. It is needless for me to eulogize him for he was known to most of you.

He was the first surgeon who originated the extirpation of Bronchocele, on Oct. 19, '66. Dr. Green's relation of the case will be found in the Medical Record of Nov. 15, '66. Drs. Smith and Paddock were eye-witnesses of this remarkable operation.

He was a delegate from Portland, Me., in 1881 to the International Medical Congress. He made remarks in criticism of some points in "Listerism." And the ideas he enunciated are now the rule in surgery. Returning from the Congress he died at sea. A notice of him says: "he was a leading physician of Portland; confessedly one of the ablest surgeons in Maine, and one of the most skillful in the country."

He was for three years Secretary of this Society, and his

modesty, great-heartedness and geniality made him a multitude of friends.

Drs. Stiles and Thayer are well known in connection with the Berkshire Medical Journal which began its publication in January, 1861.

It was an admirable journal, and many of the papers are even to-day of great scientific and practical interest.

The reports of the Society published in it are very complete, that of April occupying twelve closely printed Journal pages.

The stimulus to the Society was very great, but the "overwhelming interest," which took its editors into the field, and crushed half of the Medical Journals of that year, brought this to finis with its 12th number. It was of incalculable benefit to the Society through its broad and discreet management and admirable reports.

Watts says:

" While the lamp holds out to burn
The vilest sinner may return."

The proof of that was at the last annual meeting at Lenox, May 14, 1862, when this communication came before the Society:

"To the President of Berkshire Medical Society.—The undersigned, a graduate of Berkshire Medical College, having practiced Homeopathy for several years, from an assurance of its friends, in whom he had confidence, that its potency in disease promised more certain relief to sufferers than the Allopathic treatment, hereby affirms that he has no confidence in it as a system of practice, and that he believes it his duty, as well to himself as to the public, to thus declare, and, that it is his sincere desire to take an honorable position, under his diploma, in the profession, and to observe fully and faithfully the rules and by-laws of the Massachusetts Medical Society."

And he kept on eating "crow" till December, '62, when with drooping crest he begged to come out of the rot of Homeopathy under the old umbrella. Dr. Childs' great fatherly heart made a place for him.

One hundred years ago the Association had for its objects: First, Observation and Communication; Second, A Spirit of

Union; Third, Respectability. To-day in this Society these objects are amply fulfilled. The pages of the record show how accurate the observations are, and how admirably they are communicated. The spirit of union as far as known is perfect and no cloud threatens its perpetuity.

Foremost in all the questions which lie at the foundations of public health and life, thoroughly alive to the medical progress of the day both in art and science, filling in all our communities responsible and honorable positions, the medical profession of Berkshire has no cause to question its respectability.

The two great objects to be obtained in any medical association are cohesion and growth.

Cohesion requires that the atoms should be similar and in contact. For this reason there can be no cohesion between the students of nature and the students of Hahnemann, between regular medicine and homeopathy. The atoms are not similar.

There can be no contact without association, no association without mutual esteem, no mutual esteem without acquaintance.

Coming together monthly, communicating our cases and treatment we find ourselves, at times, confronted with criticism and suggestions, which even if they prick the bag of conceit, and thereby give us a fall, yet, make us in after time stronger and wiser.

It does great good to one marching forward with the idea that all the world is under his umbrella, to have it whirled out of his hands, that his eyes may take in the unlimited expanse around and above him. Nothing like a live society like this to pull a man out of the ruts and keep him out.

Growth of a society means growth of its members. There is no growth except there is an assimilation of appropriate nourishment. That, for a medical man, is truth as developed from accurate observation of facts and a generalization upon a sufficient number.

The scrappy relation of a case with treatment to match is, for a medical society, eating sawdust. There must be brain work of the highest order in careful analysis and deduction with the largest possible elimination of the personal equation,

if the pabalum is adapted to growth. And the vitalizing principle must not be wanting.

There must be mutual esteem and consideration of one for another. This exists in eminent degree in this Society.

We have long ago sailed past the rule which enjoins us to treat one another "without ridicule"—"with candor and decency." Even so far, that we should consider it an insult were any one to point us to it.

Standing to-day on the vantage ground of great discoveries in both the art and science of Physic—looking proudly, as we must, upon the facilities for thorough medical education in which Harvard leads the country—glorying in the grand medical charities which are seen on every hand—with minds intent upon the great medical problems, which, with their solution, will banish many of our fatal diseases—there should be no congratulations more fervid than that with which the Berkshire Medical Society greets the new century. Centennial address, Oct. 27, 1887.

I have now noticed one hundred and five physicians who practiced in Berkshire commencing as early as 1743. In nearly every respect there is an almost infinite difference between *the then* and now. Then this Berkshire was a wilderness—conveyance on horseback guided by marked trees—population sparse—the arts in a rudimentary state. As for the science of medicine then it could scarcely merit the name rudimentary. These physicians had neither stethoscope, ophthalmoscope, microscope, endoscope or chemical thermometer—none of the elegant and efficient preparations which chemistry has furnished to us. They collected, prepared and pounded their own medicines. Chloroform, ether and quinine were unknown.

They could say with Cerimon—(Pericles Act 3, Sec. 2.)—

" 'Tis known I ever
Have studied physic, through which secret art,
By turning o'er authorities, I have
(Together with my practice) made familiar
To me and to my aid, the blest infusions
That dwell in vegetives, in metals, stones ;
And I can speak of the disturbances
That nature works, and of her cures, which give me

A more content in course of true delight,
Than to be thirsty after tottering honor,
Or tie my treasure up in silken bags
To please the fool and death."

Among them, sixteen were college educated, two Dartmouth, three Harvard, five Yale, five Williams, one unknown. But those who never trod academic halls were self-educated, as we say, which is the best of all education. How did these early physicians become such strong and correct thinkers? Not alone or chiefly because they were forced by stern necessity to a vocation which would procure for themselves and those depending on them, daily bread, but because they were impelled by desire "the wings of the soul," "which is indeed, (as Wilson says) essential to all greatness, enlargement and strength of soul; by which the unconquered patriot hopes his country's deliverance, and the good man hopes that his just purpose shall succeed against the opposition and division of the world."

Says North, "There have been those who have found the power to bring down good among men, and have used it. Men simple in their spirit, not radiant in genius, not strong in power, not pouring out the dazzling and exuberant wealth of their own minds before men's eyes, but pouring out their spirit through their hearts—men unconscious of themselves, but who have brought down good into the life of men by bringing it first into their own."

They were men, broad in manhood, generous in sympathy, mindful of the poor, became love of humanity, "pure, generous and heroic, in its every height of strength sacrificing itself to its object or to solemn duties, enabled them by its own intense strength to make that sacrifice."

Yes, these men were strong hearted and heroic. The howling winds and pitiless storms, when wild winter had wrapped these Berkshire hills in a snowy shroud, or the stars in the deep blue vault which looked down upon them in guidance in their long lonely rides, or the sick in the rude log cabin far from the busy haunts of men, whose soul as well as body were gladdened by their ministrations, they would testify of their heroism.

But these men were not only physicians making the best use

of what they had,—and first rate work at that—but they were in the fullest and best sense of the word, citizens. We know seven of them took an active part in the Revolution, one in the war of 1755, five in the war of 1812; most of them were either Town Clerk, Selectmen or Justice of the Peace; many of them were Representatives or Senators; three of them were Judges of Court of Common Pleas; one was Lieutenant Governor. It is striking, in all the communications made to me, what uniform mention is made of the interest of these men in public education.

In Pittsfield, what a debt of honor and gratitude is owing to its Childs and Brewsters, in the same regard. The Berkshire Medical College stood for a long time the monument to the unconquerable zeal and wisdom and devotion of H. H. Childs in the education of men spread far and near, who were a blessing to their race. And with him were associated Burbank, and Collins, and Burghardt, and the Worthingtons, and Fowler, and Bartlett, and Perry, and Tyler, and Delamater, and Brewster, and Batchelder, and Dewey. Men of classic education and strong and earnest.

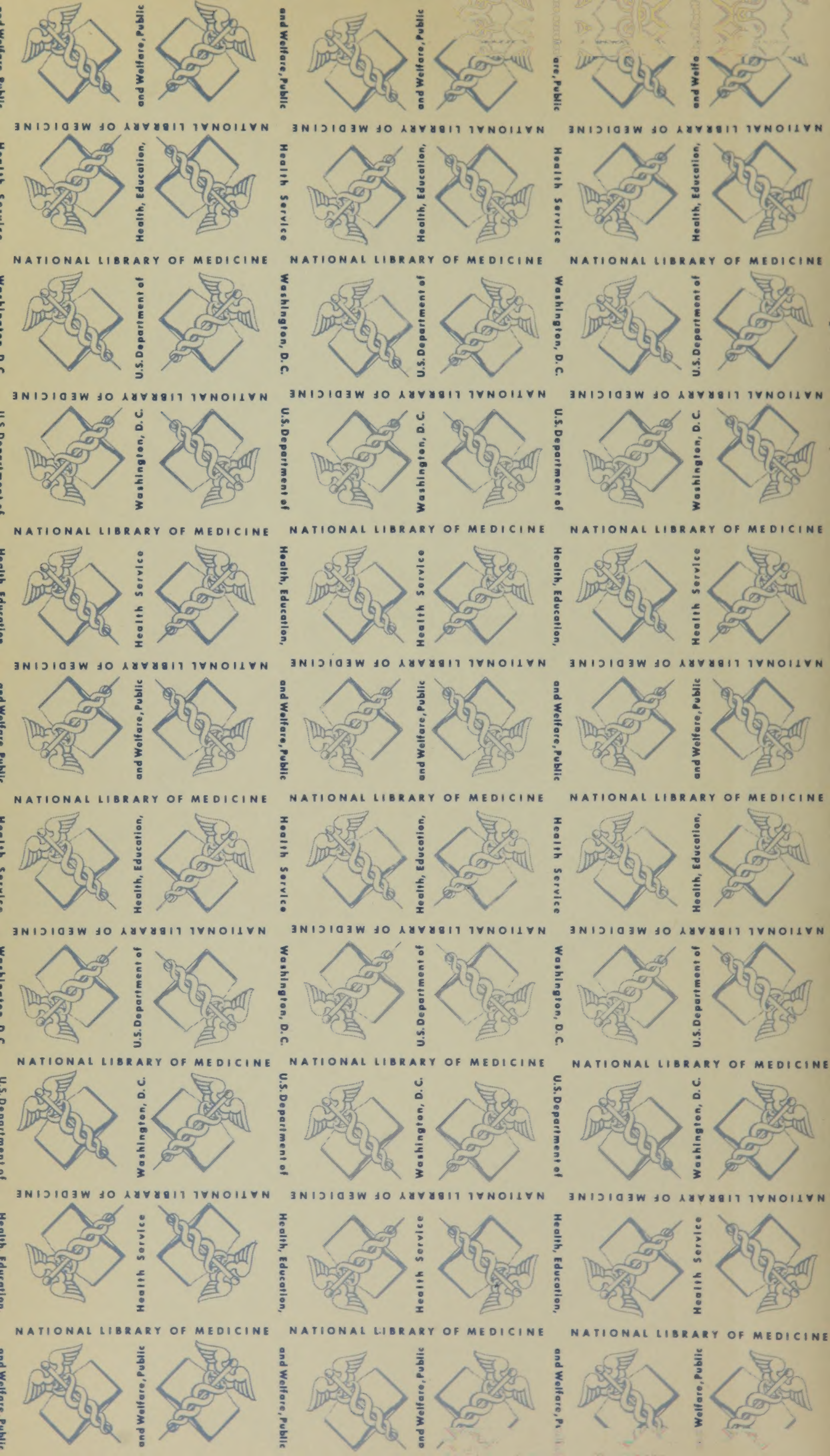
What of good (it must have been immense) this institution has achieved can never be known.

And so all through this County the early physicians had great influence in moulding public affairs. Even those relating to anti-slavery and temperance; they went forward as the pioneer corps, ushering in the true and the best.

Over these early physicians and citizens was thrown the radiant mantle of christianity. *There* was the hiding of their power. The profession of medicine is Christ-like, and some of these physicians have been spoken of, as going about doing good. The majority were professing Christians and many of them deacons.

Now, in view of what these men were as scholars, active in mind as well as body, eagerly seeking for opportunities to do something noble, as physicians with extensive practice, touching multitudes of people in the tenderest places of humanity,—with zeal generally according to knowledge,—as citizens, taking a larger share in the matters of civil government, deeply in-

terested in education, knowing that true education was the vitality of the Commonwealth; maintainers of the sanctity of the Sabbath and public worship; zealous for the Bible, and readers of it, and in their lives exemplifying its teaching, what must their inevitable influence and power have been in the normal development of Berkshire County.



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